

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2296

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Addressing duplicate signatures on petitions in cities, towns, and code cities.

Sponsors: Representatives Pike, Harris, Blake, Vick, Taylor, Overstreet, Farrell, S. Hunt and Pollet.

House Committee on Local Government
Senate Committee on Governmental Operations

Background:

There are many statutory purposes for which petitions may be brought in cities and towns including to:

- incorporate a city or town;
- advance the classification of a city or town;
- disincorporate a city or town;
- amend a city charter;
- initiate an ordinance;
- subject an ordinance to referendum;
- consolidate two or more contiguous cities;
- annex unincorporated territory to a city or town;
- initiate the formation of a utility local improvement district;
- create a metropolitan municipal corporation;
- change the name of a city or town; or
- create a city transportation authority.

A petition submitted to a city or town must contain: (1) a concise statement of the action or relief sought by the petitioners and applicable statutes or ordinances; (2) a true copy of the ordinance, if the petition initiates or refers an ordinance; (3) an accurate legal description of the area proposed for annexation, incorporation, withdrawal, or reduction, if the petition seeks such action; (4) numbered lines for signatures with space beside each signature for the name and address of the signer and the date of signing; and (5) a warning that signing a petition without being qualified to do so or making a false statement is a crime.

To be sufficient, a petition must gather a certain number of valid signatures. Signatures must be of qualified registered voters or property owners, as the case may be, in the number

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required by applicable statute or ordinance (e.g., "signed by registered voters in the city equal in number to 25 percent of the votes cast in the last general election").

When a petition has been filed, the county auditor, or in certain cases the county assessor, determines whether the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures. A signature must be stricken if: (1) any person has signed a petition two or more times; or (2) the signature is followed by a date of signing that is more than six months prior to the date of filing of the petition. When a petition contains duplicate signatures, the original and all duplicates are stricken.

Summary:

If a person signs a petition submitted to a city or town more than once, all but the first valid signature must be rejected.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0	
Senate	49	0	(Senate amended)
House	95	0	(House concurred)

Effective: June 12, 2014