

ESSB 5546 - S AMD TO S AMD (S-4234.2/24) **580**
By Senator Shewmake

ADOPTED 02/13/2024

1 On page 4, after line 26, insert the following:
2 "(7) Before conducting the referendum provided for in this
3 section, the director may require the petitioners to deposit an
4 amount of money as the director deems necessary to defray the
5 expenses of conducting the referendum. The director shall provide the
6 petitioners an estimate of expenses that may be incurred to conduct a
7 referendum before any service takes place. Petitioners shall deposit
8 funds with the director to pay for expenses incurred by the
9 department. The commission shall reimburse petitioners the amount
10 paid to the department when funds become available. However, if for
11 any reason the referendum process is discontinued, the petitioners
12 shall reimburse the department for expenses incurred by the
13 department up until the time the process is discontinued."

EFFECT: Allows, prior to conducting a referendum, the Director of Agriculture to require a deposit from the petitioners to defray the expenses of conducting the referendum. Requires the commission to reimburse the petitioners for the amount paid to the Department of Agriculture (department) when funds become available. Requires the petitioners to reimburse the department for expenses incurred if a referendum process is discontinued.

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