

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 280**

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 471 and 477 (MCL 168.471 and 168.477), as
amended by 2018 PA 608.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 471. Petitions under section 2 of article XII of the
2 state constitution of 1963 proposing an amendment to the
3 constitution must be filed with the secretary of state at least 120
4 days before the election at which the proposed amendment is to be
5 voted upon. Initiative petitions under section 9 of article II of
6 the state constitution of 1963 must be filed with the secretary of
7 state at least 160 days before the election at which the proposed
8 law would appear on the ballot if the legislature rejects or fails



1 to enact the proposed law. Referendum petitions under section 9 of
 2 article II of the state constitution of 1963 must be filed with the
 3 secretary of state not more than 90 days following the final
 4 adjournment of the legislative session at which the law that is the
 5 subject of the referendum was enacted. Not more than 15% of the
 6 signatures to be used to determine the validity of a petition
 7 described in this section shall be of registered electors from any
 8 1 congressional district. Any signature submitted on a petition
 9 above the limit described in this section must not be counted. When
 10 filing a petition described in this section with the secretary of
 11 state, a person must sort the petition so that the petition
 12 signatures are categorized by congressional district. In addition,
 13 when filing a petition described in this section with the secretary
 14 of state, the person who files the petition must state in writing a
 15 good-faith estimate of the number of petition signatures from each
 16 congressional district.

17 Sec. 477. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,
 18 the board of state canvassers shall make an official declaration of
 19 the sufficiency or insufficiency of a petition under this chapter
 20 at least 2 months before the election at which the proposal is to
 21 be submitted. ~~The~~ **Subject to subsection (3), the** board of state
 22 canvassers shall make an official declaration of the sufficiency or
 23 insufficiency of an initiative petition no later than 100 days
 24 before the election at which the proposal is to be submitted. The
 25 board of state canvassers may not count toward the sufficiency of a
 26 petition described in this section any valid signature of a
 27 registered elector from a congressional district submitted on that
 28 petition that is above the 15% limit described in section 471. If
 29 the board of state canvassers declares that the petition is



1 sufficient, the secretary of state shall send copies of the
2 statement of purpose of the proposal as approved by the board of
3 state canvassers to the several daily and weekly newspapers
4 published in this state, with the request that the newspapers give
5 as wide publicity as possible to the proposed amendment or other
6 question. Publication of any matter by any newspaper under this
7 section must be without expense or cost to this state.

8 (2) For the purposes of the second paragraph of section 9 of
9 article II of the state constitution of 1963, a law that is the
10 subject of the referendum continues to be effective until the
11 referendum is properly invoked, which occurs when the board of
12 state canvassers makes its official declaration of the sufficiency
13 of the referendum petition. The board of state canvassers shall
14 complete the canvass of a referendum petition within 60 days after
15 the petition is filed with the secretary of state, except that 1
16 15-day extension may be granted by the secretary of state if
17 necessary to complete the canvass.

18 (3) **Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the board**
19 **of state canvassers shall complete the canvass of an initiative**
20 **petition no later than 100 days after the initiative petition is**
21 **filed with the secretary of state. If the board of state canvassers**
22 **declares that an initiative petition is sufficient, the initiative**
23 **petition must be immediately forwarded to the legislature for**
24 **consideration. If an initiative petition is filed with the**
25 **secretary of state at least 160 days before a general November**
26 **election, the board of state canvassers must complete the canvass**
27 **of the initiative petition no later than 100 days before that**
28 **general November election.**

