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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

S.J.R. 2
136th General Assembly

Resolution Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

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SUMMARY

- Proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to change the statutory initiative process.
- Requires only one petition and reduces the total petition signature requirements from 6% of the electors to 3% (currently, from 148,008 electors to 124,004).
- Eliminates the requirement that an initiated statute be presented to the General Assembly before it can appear on the ballot.
- Requires a supermajority vote of the General Assembly to amend or repeal an initiated statute for two years after the voters approve it.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The resolution proposes an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to appear on the ballot at the general election on November 3, 2026. If adopted by the electors, it takes effect immediately. The proposal changes the process to place an initiated statute on the ballot and, for two years after the voters approve an initiated statute, makes it more difficult for the General Assembly to change the statute.

Briefly, the current Ohio Constitution provides four steps to place an initiated statute on the ballot:

1. The proponents must submit a petition signed by at least 3% of Ohio's electors, including at least 1.5% of the electors in each of 44 counties (half of Ohio's counties).

The number of electors is based on the total vote for Governor at the most recent election for that office. Currently, 3% of the electors is 124,004.

2. The petition is submitted to the General Assembly at the beginning of an annual session. The legislature has four months to enact the statute as it was proposed, enact it in a modified form, or take no action.
3. If the General Assembly does not enact the statute in the form in which it was proposed, the proponents must submit a second petition, called a supplementary petition, signed by at least 3% of Ohio's electors who did not sign the original petition, including at least 1.5% of the electors in each of 44 counties. The petition must be filed within 90 days after the General Assembly rejects the statute or 90 days after the General Assembly misses the four-month deadline to act.
4. The proposal is placed on the ballot at the next general election held at least 125 days after the petition is filed. If approved by a majority of those voting on the proposal, the law takes effect 30 days after the election.

For more details about Ohio's current statutory initiative process, see LSC's Members Brief, [Statewide Ballot Issues \(PDF\)](#), available on LSC's website at lsc.ohio.gov under "Publications."

The proposal eliminates steps 2 and 3 above. In other words, under the proposal, the proponents of an initiated statute are only required to submit a single petition signed by at least 3% of the electors, including at least 1.5% of the electors in each of 44 counties, instead of two separate petitions that meet that threshold. If the petition is valid, the proposal goes directly to the ballot at the next general election held at least 125 days after the petition is filed.

Finally, if an initiated statute is approved by a majority of the electors voting on it, the proposal limits the General Assembly's ability to change the statute for a period of two years after it takes effect. Currently, the General Assembly can amend or repeal an initiated statute in the same manner as any other law. Under the proposal, any action to amend, repeal, or suspend an initiated statute during the two-year period requires the affirmative vote of $\frac{3}{5}$ of each house of the General Assembly.¹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-28-25

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¹ Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 1b and conforming changes in Section 1g.