

1 SENATE BILL NO. 453

2 INTRODUCED BY D. HARGROVE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA
5 AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 7, AND ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 9, OF THE MONTANA
6 CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTORS WHO PETITION TO HAVE A
7 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PLACED ON THE BALLOT FROM AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OF THE
8 QUALIFIED ELECTORS IN TWO-FIFTHS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS TO AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OF
9 THE ELECTORS IN EACH COUNTY AND CHANGING THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF
10 QUALIFIED ELECTORS FROM THOSE ELECTORS IN A LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT LAST
11 VOTING FOR GOVERNOR TO THOSE IN A COUNTY LAST VOTING FOR GOVERNOR."

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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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15 **Section 1.** Article III, section 7, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

16 **"Section 7. Number of electors.** The number of qualified electors required in each legislative
17 representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of
18 governor in the preceding general election. For the purposes of a constitutional amendment, the number
19 of qualified electors in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for
20 the office of governor in the preceding general election."

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22 **Section 2.** Article XIV, section 9, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

23 **"Section 9. Amendment by initiative.** (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments
24 by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten
25 percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified
26 electors in each ~~of two-fifths of the legislative districts~~ county.

27 (2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been
28 signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be
29 published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide
30 election.

1 (3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for
2 approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become a part of the constitution
3 effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise."

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5 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the
6 qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2002 by printing on the ballot
7 the full title of this act and the following:

8 [] FOR requiring that the minimum number of signatures for a constitutional amendment be
9 gathered in each county and not two-fifths of the representative legislative districts.

10 [] AGAINST requiring that the minimum number of signatures for a constitutional amendment
11 be gathered in each county and not two-fifths of the representative legislative districts.

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