

## SENATE BILL NO. 404

INTRODUCED BY K. TOOLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING REASONABLE ACCESS TO DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS IN RETAIL SHOPPING CENTERS OR MALLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING BALLOT SIGNATURES; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Access to designated public areas for gathering ballot signatures.**

(1) An owner of a retail shopping center or mall that maintains a policy of allowing charitable, civic, or political groups to use designated public areas on the premises of the owner's retail shopping center or mall shall allow a signature gatherer reasonable access to designated public areas for the purpose of collecting signatures for a petition of an initiative or referendum pursuant to this chapter.

(2) An owner of a retail shopping center or mall referred to under subsection (1):

(a) may set reasonable restrictions on the time, manner, and place for a signature gatherer to collect signatures; and

(b) may not discriminate among signature gatherers of different political groups.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 13, chapter 27, part 1, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 27, part 1, apply to [section 1].

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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