

SENATE BILL NO. 204

INTRODUCED BY A. BLEWETT

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 9, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON A PETITION TO AMEND THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION BY INITIATIVE TO 20% OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE STATE AND TO 20% OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS IN EACH OF AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE COUNTIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Article XIV, section 9, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 9. Amendment by initiative. (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ~~ten~~ twenty percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ~~ten~~ twenty percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-half of the counties.

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

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Two-thirds vote required.** Because [section 1] is a legislative proposal to amend the constitution, Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana constitution requires an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members of the legislature, whether one or more bodies, for passage.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** If approved by the electorate, [this act] is effective January 1, 2013.

