

## House Government Operations Committee

Date: 02/03/2026

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### **Bill: 1st substitute HB 32 - Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Cutler

Floor Sponsor: Senator Winterton

**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill modifies requirements for petitions.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 1st substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The legislation creates an alternative packet type for initiatives and referendums; updates packet formatting, spacing, and circulator sheets; and clarifies provisions related to signature certification, packet spoiling, and packet retention. The sponsor stated that the Bill requires an election official who verifies petition signatures to notify the signer by email and text message regarding the status of the signature. The Bill also requires the Lieutenant Governor to develop and maintain an online training course for individuals who collect petition signatures and requires completion of the training prior to collecting signatures. The Bill further modifies initiative and referendum packet requirements by requiring county clerks to certify specified statistical information to the Lieutenant Governor and to retain and preserve initiative and referendum packets for at least 22 months. The Utah Municipal Clerks Association and the Lieutenant Governor's Office spoke in support. A member of the public spoke in opposition.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

**Outcome: 1st substitute HB 32 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**