

Legislative Analysis



DEADLINE FOR REVIEW OF INITIATIVE PETITION

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4200 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Bradley Slagh
House Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 3-16-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4200 would institute a timeline for the review of initiative petitions under the Michigan Election Law.

Currently under the law, the Board of State Canvassers (the Board) must make a declaration of the sufficiency or insufficiency of an initiative petition at least 100 days before the election at which the proposal is to be submitted.

Under the bill, generally, the Bureau of Elections (BOE) would have to review initiative petition signatures and the Board would have to complete the canvass of the initiative petition within 90 days of its filing with the secretary of state. If the initiative petition is filed with the secretary of state 45 days or less before a November election, the BOE would have to review the signatures and the Board would have to complete the canvass within 120 days of its filing with the secretary of state.

MCL 168.477

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4200 would likely have no fiscal impact on the Department of State (DOS) or local units of government. The bill could potentially result in increased costs to DOS if under certain circumstances it is not able to complete its ongoing election administration responsibilities and comply with the bill's canvassing time requirements with its existing election administration staffing and would need to hire additional temporary or ongoing staff members.

DOS reported last year that the canvassing process can take both up to 60 days¹ and over 100 days on average² from the date of the petition's submission to the department. Data on the time taken to canvass petitions from the date of filing to the declaration of sufficiency or insufficiency was not available at the time of this analysis.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ <https://www.clearinghouse.net/detailDocument.php?id=108020>

² https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Submitting_Petition_Signatures_Guidance_703168_7.pdf