

article deal with initiative and referendums and both set forth the signature requirements which are based on the number of votes which were cast for the Governor at the preceding general election. The signature requirements are 8 percent for an initiative for the enactment of a law, 12 percent for an initiative for the enactment of a constitutional amendment, 6 percent for a referendum, and 12 percent for a referendum that will suspend the taking effect of a law. A major provision of the first two sections of the new constitutional article is the recognition of the special challenges faced by those who rely on volunteer circulators to obtain signatures for their petitions. A bonus of one additional signature is granted for each signature obtained by a volunteer uncompensated circulator. A volunteer uncompensated circulator is defined as a person who does not receive compensation for collecting the signatures other than reimbursement for travel and meals. This provision is included in both the initiative and referendum sections. The new article contains the severability clause that recognizes the constitutional uncertainty that exists in the granting of bonus signatures so it provides that if Section 1 through 3 of the new article of the constitution are found to be unconstitutional by either the Nebraska Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court then Section 5 through 7 of the new article become effective and are given retroactive effect of the date of this constitutional amendment. Section 5 through 7 basically contains the provisions of LR CA (sic) as it was introduced. It amends Article III, Sections 2 through 4 of the constitution, which certainly contain the initiative and referendum process. The signature basis is, as in the first part of the amendment, based on the votes for the Governor at the preceding general election and not on registered voters. Seven percent is required for the initiative for a law, and 10 percent to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot. On referendums, 5 percent is the basic requirement, and 10 percent for a referendum that also suspends a law from taking effect until after the subsequent election. I realize that the signature requirements in one or both parts of the committee amendments may be too high or too low for many senators, but the committee felt that it was important to get these two ideas to the floor. It was the opinion of most of the committee that the ideas come out in a way that they can be considered together, therefore the approach the committee...with the idea of an amendment such as this one, we felt that the idea was worthy of floor debate and advanced LR CA (sic) with this committee amendment. Please remember that if nothing is passed by the Legislature and