

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

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H. B. No. 752

Representatives Sweeney, Crossman

**Cosponsors: Representatives Holmes, A., Becker, Boyd, Brown, Crawley,
Galonski, Ingram, Kelly, Kent, Lepore-Hagan, Lightbody, Miller, J., O'Brien,
Patterson, Russo, Sheehy, Smith, K., Sobecki, Weinstein**

A BILL

To amend section 3599.13 of the Revised Code to 1
prohibit a person from taking certain actions to 2
prevent the circulation of an election petition. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3599.13 of the Revised Code be 4
amended to read as follows: 5

Sec. 3599.13. (A) No person shall do any of the following: 6

(1) Sign an initiative, supplementary, referendum, recall, 7
or nominating petition knowing that the person is not at the 8
time qualified to sign it; 9

(2) Knowingly sign such a petition more than once; 10

(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 3501.382 of 11
the Revised Code, sign a name other than the person's own on 12
such a petition; 13

(4) Accept anything of value for signing such a petition; 14

(5) Seek by intimidation or threats to influence any 15

person to sign or ~~refrain from signing to circulate~~ such a 16
petition, ~~or from circulating or abstaining from circulating~~ 17
~~such a petition;~~ 18

(6) Sign a declaration of candidacy and petition for a 19
candidate of a party with which the person is not affiliated, as 20
required by section 3513.05 of the Revised Code; 21

(7) Make a false affidavit or statement concerning the 22
signatures on any such petition. 23

(B) ~~Whoever~~ (1) No person shall knowingly do any of the 24
following with respect to an initiative, supplementary, 25
referendum, recall, or nominating petition or any other petition 26
to be filed with the secretary of state, a board of elections, 27
or another public office for the purpose of becoming a candidate 28
for any elective office, including the office of a political 29
party, for the purpose of submitting a question or issue to the 30
electors at an election, or for the purpose of forming a 31
political party: 32

(a) Seek by interference, threat, intimidation, or 33
compensation to influence any person to refrain from signing 34
such a petition or to refrain from circulating such a petition; 35

(b) Compensate any person in exchange for the person 36
acting in violation of division (B) (1) (a) of this section; 37

(c) Authorize or direct an employee, as part of the 38
employee's job duties, to act in violation of division (B) (1) (a) 39
of this section; 40

(d) Compensate any person in exchange for the person 41
agreeing to refrain from causing another person to circulate 42
such a petition. 43

(2) For purposes of division (B)(1) of this section, 44
compensation includes any loan, gift, deposit, forgiveness of 45
indebtedness, donation, advance, payment, or transfer of funds 46
or anything of value, and the payment by any person other than 47
the person to whom the services are rendered for the personal 48
services of another person. 49

(C)(1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section shall 50
be fined not less than fifty or more than five hundred dollars, 51
or imprisoned not less than three or more than six months, or 52
both. 53

(2) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 54
guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 55

Section 2. That existing section 3599.13 of the Revised 56
Code is hereby repealed. 57