

CHAPTER 701 STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM ACT

701.01 This chapter shall be titled the “Student Government Initiative and Referendum Act.”

701.02 An “explanation of intent” shall be defined in the case of an initiative to be placed on the ballot as a statement explaining the intent of the initiative. This explanation of intent shall clarify the purpose of the initiative.

701.03 The “Board,” as articulated in the Act, shall be the Student Government Election Board of Supervision.

Initiatives

701.1 Initiatives purporting to be law and their explanations of intent shall be placed on the ballot of any general election or authorized campus-wide election, if the initiative is supported by a petition containing an explanation of intent and has 1000 signatures of the student body.

701.10 Any initiative purporting to be law must be submitted to the Board not less than 2 weeks prior to the election that the petitioner intends to place the initiative on the ballot.

701.11 In order for an initiative to become law an initiative must be approved by a majority of those students voting upon the question. If approved, an initiative shall be considered a Student Body law, as if passed by the Senate, and properly codified. The Senate shall not amend an initiative until 60 days following enactment.

701.12 An initiative is never a “bill of law” and the Student Body President shall not veto a law passed pursuant to this section. A law passed pursuant to 701.1 may be challenged as unconstitutional before the Supreme Court by any means in the Student Body Constitution or Student Body Statutes.

701.13 The outcome of the initiative shall be binding and take effect forty-eight (48) hours after the initiative is official.

Referenda

701.2 Referendum questions may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate or by a petition of at least 1000 students.

701.20 Any petition created under this section must be filed with the Board no later than 2 weeks before the election that the petitioner intends to place the referendum questions on the ballot.

701.21 Referendum questions approved by a majority of the students voting on the question shall be considered enacted and shall be treated in the same manner as resolutions adopted by the Student Center.

General Rules

701.3 All petitions filed with the Board, as provided in Sections 701.1 *et seq.* and 701.2 *et seq.* shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) All names must be the signature of the individual who allegedly signed the petition;

- (2) All names must be signed in ink;
- (3) All names must be signed exactly as that person's name is recorded with the Registrar's Office
- (4) All names must be followed by student number, address, and phone number, if any;
- (5) Each page containing signatures shall include the identity and signature of the person responsible for securing signatures for that page and that person shall certify that different individuals made all the signatures and that no threats or coercive statements were made to induce a person to sign. For the purpose of counting the number of signatures the signature of the responsible person required by this section shall be counted only once.

701.4 The Board shall review and amend the initiative or referendum to ensure that it effectively conveys its legislative intent.

701.5 Failure to meet the requirements of Student Body Statutes 701.3 may result in particular signatures or the entire petition being disqualified by the Board. The Board may, at their discretion, use a random sampling technique to verify signatures.

701.6

701.7 LEGISLATIVE INTENT – The legislative intent of this act is to recognize that the Student Body retains sovereignty over its Student Government and the right to alter the laws by which it is governed, and to establish its opinion on certain issues. This act intends to establish procedures by which students can promote referendum and initiative questions.

Sunset Clause

701.4 According to Section V(a) of the Sunset Act of 2017, "All legislation presented to Full Senate [...] shall contain a "Sunset Clause," in which an expiration date and renewal period are chosen."

- (1) The expiration date for the Initiative and Referendum act is November 30.
- (2) The renewal period for the Initiative and Referendum act is two (2) years.