



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Lynda J. Jacobsen

H.B. 458

128th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Dyer, Domenick, Letson, Hagan

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires a candidate for any office other than a statewide office to circulate the candidate's own candidacy petition.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill defines a "circulator" for the various types of election petitions. Under the bill, a "circulator" is any of the following:

- A person who gathers signatures on a petition under the Election Law for any lawful purpose unrelated to the candidacy, nomination, or election of a candidate (an issue petition);
- A person who gathers signatures on behalf of a candidate seeking the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, Attorney General, or judge of the Supreme Court; or
- A person who gathers signatures in order that the same person may become a nonstatewide candidate for elective office.

Thus, a candidate for any office other than a statewide office must serve as the person's own circulator under the bill. No other person can be a circulator of a petition for a nonstatewide candidate. Statewide candidates and issue petitions may still be circulated by third parties, as under existing law.¹

¹ R.C. 3501.01(BB) and (CC).

Under the Election Law, a circulator obtains signatures on election petitions, such as initiative petitions, referendum petitions, and candidacy petitions. Circulators must comply with certain requirements, such as witnessing each signature to a petition, and they must sign a circulator's statement acknowledging that they have complied with all applicable election laws.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-01-10

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