



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate votes to defend integrity in initiative system** *HB 2005 expands on landmark reforms passed last legislative session*

SALEM –During this morning’s floor session, the Senate voted to approve updates and improvements to 2007’s Initiative Reform and Modernization Act (IRMA). HB 2005 expands on the restructuring implemented in 2007 by clarifying requirements and standards for paid signature gathering.

“The initiative system has become a key piece of Oregon’s history and identity over the last hundred years,” said Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), who carried the bill on the floor. “Oregonians value the initiative process yet it is obvious that the system has been abused in recent decades. These reforms will help preserve the integrity that Oregonians expect in the initiative system.”

Specifically, HB 2005 gives the Secretary of State better tools to prevent forgery and fraudulent activity by:

- Requiring comprehensive background checks of paid signature gatherers;
- Allowing concurrent civil and criminal enforcement of election violations;
- Making chief petitioners liable when they “should have known” that a circulator has broken the law.

“Those who abuse the system need to know that there are repercussions,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “The initiative was created as a tool for the people of Oregon, not as a for-profit venture for bad actors who abuse the system. HB 2005 will help ensure that the intent of the system is respected.”

The bill will now go to the Governor for his approval.

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