

**Office of the Vermont Secretary of State**  
**Vermont State Archives**

**1975: Proposal 5**

**Subject: Initiative; referendum**

PROPOSAL 5

That Articles 75, 76, and 77 of Chapter II of the Constitution be added to read:

§75. INITIATIVE

SECTION 75. The initiative is the power of the voters to propose statutes and amendments to the Constitution and to adopt or reject them.

An initiative measure may be proposed by presenting to the Secretary of State a petition that sets forth the text of the proposed statute or amendment to the Constitution and is certified to have been signed by voters equal in number to 10 per cent of the votes for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election.

The Secretary of State shall then submit the measure at the next general election held at least 131 days after it qualifies or at any special statewide election held prior to the general election. The Governor may call a special statewide election for the measure.

An initiative measure embracing more than one subject may not be submitted to the electors or have any effect.

§76. REFERENDUM

SECTION 76. The referendum is the power of the voters to approve or reject statutes or parts of statutes except urgency statutes, statutes calling election, and statutes providing for tax levies or appropriations for usual current expenses of the State.

A referendum measure may be proposed by presenting to the Secretary of State, within 90 days after the enactment date of the statutes, a petition certified to have been signed by electors equal in number to 10 per cent of the votes for all candidates for Governor at the last gubernatorial election, asking that the statute or part of it be submitted to the voters.

The Secretary of State shall then submit the measure at the next general election held at least 31 days after it qualifies or at a special statewide election for the measure.

§77. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM; MAJORITY VOTE; EFFECTIVE DATE; CONFLICTING MEASURES; AMENDMENTS AND REPEALS; SUBMISSION OF PETITION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; SUBMISSION TO VOTERS

SECTION 77. An initiative statute or referendum approved by a majority of votes thereon takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. If a referendum petition is filed against a part of a statute the remainder shall not be delayed from going into effect.

The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by, or referred to the people.

If provision of 2 or more measures approved at the same election conflict, those of the measure receiving the highest affirmative vote shall prevail.

The Legislature may amend or repeal referendum statutes. It may amend or repeal an initiative statute by another statute that becomes effective only when approved by the voters unless the initiative statute permits amendment or repeal without their approval.

Prior to circulation of an initiative or referendum petition for signatures, a copy shall be submitted to the Legislative Council of the General Assembly who may revise the measure as to form and expression only and who shall prepare a title and summary of the measure.

The General Assembly shall provide the manner in which petitions shall be circulated, presented, and certified, and measures submitted to the electors.