

Pro and Con Statements for Referenda questions in the "Voter Information Handbook"

Introduced each year since 2001, Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis gave strong support last year to this legislation, which passed in the Senate, but was defeated in the House.

This legislation allows pro and con statements about referenda questions in the Voter Information Handbook, published by the Secretary of State. At least fifteen states allow pro and con arguments. Those states are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Washington. Some of these states allow rebuttals to those arguments.

In this proposed legislation, statements of support can be submitted by the sponsoring legislator and/or any individual or group he chooses. Statements in opposition are submitted by a legislator who has voted against the bill and/or any individual or group chosen by that legislator.

Passing this legislation would be a positive step towards giving the voters more information on referenda questions.