

Power To The People Act (PP Act)

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Preamble

WHEREAS Petitions should be a real tool for real people

Article 1 - Amendments to the Petition Act 2026

§1. Article 1 of The Petitions Act 2026 shall be amended as follows (changes in red):

Article 1: Creation of Petitions

§1. Any citizen of SimDemocracy may publish a legally binding petition addressed to a specific government institution, a clearly defined sub-entity of that institution, or an official holding office within that institution.

§1.1. For the purposes of this Act, only the Senate, the Executive, and the Judiciary shall be considered institutions subject to legally binding petitions. Petitions directed at any other group, organization, or individual shall be considered legally non-binding.

§1.2. If a petition is directed at an institution at large, it must be addressed to the respective head of that institution: the President for the Executive, the Speaker of the Senate for the Senate, and the Chief Justice for the Judiciary.

§1.3. Petitions may not be directed at any single individual in their personal capacity.

§2. For a petition to be deemed legally binding, it must meet the following criteria:

§2.1. The petitioner must reasonably confirm that all signees are valid citizens of SimDemocracy.

§2.2. All citizens must have reasonable, public access to view and sign the petition (e.g., not hosted in private channels or groups).

§2.3. The text must be clearly marked as a petition.

§2.4. The head of the respective petitioned institution must be formally notified of its existence ~~upon creation~~ within at least twenty-four (24) hours after its creation.

§2.5. The signatures of individuals who are banned, muted, or arrested on SimDemocracy at the time of the petition's conclusion shall not count toward the required threshold for a legally binding petition.

§2.6. The petition must name the person(s) who initiated it.

§3. If any condition established within this Act is violated, the petition is null and void, ~~provided the addressed institution challenges it, and the petitioned institution is under no legal obligation to recognize, address, or respond to it.~~

§3.1. The burden of proof rests on the ~~petitioner(s)~~ challenger of the petition to demonstrate that the petition ~~does not meet~~s all legal requirements.

§3.2. Petitions are assumed to be correctly filed unless challenged by the petitioned institution, ~~an official legal observer, or a recognized legal representative.~~

§3.3. ~~If a petition's validity is challenged, and the subsequent proof offered by the petitioner is disputed, a Judge of the Judiciary may arbitrate the matter to either definitively throw out the petition or confirm its validity. Any challenge of a petition shall be arbitrated by a Judge of the Inferior Court.~~

§4. Citizens retain the right to author and post joke petitions. If a petition is reasonably identifiable as a joke, the petitioned institution may choose to ignore it. ~~Any disputes regarding joke petitions shall be handled as though they were challenges of the petition.~~

§5. For all disputes under this Act, the person(s) who initiated the petition shall represent the interest of the petition and the signees insofar as it concerns the petition.

~~§4.1. In the event of a dispute over whether a petition is a joke, a Judge shall arbitrate. The Judge may only rule a petition to be a joke if clear and convincing evidence is presented.~~

~~§4.2. Institutions may, of their own volition, choose to address the contents of legally non-binding or joke petitions.~~

§2. Article 2 of The Petitions Act 2026 shall be amended as follows (changes in red):

Article 2: Function of Petitions

§1. A petition's signing period shall last for exactly forty-eight (48) hours from its time of publication.

§1.1. If a petition receives ten (10) eligible signatures **during its signing period and if it addresses the Senate**, the petitioned institution is legally required to conduct a debate **within 48 hours after the petitions's signing period ended and for no less than twenty-four (24) hours** regarding the petition's contents **while recognising the initiator(s) of the petition.**

§1.2. If a petition receives twenty (20) eligible signatures, then the Senate must hold a formal debate and a binding legislative vote on its contents. However, if it is directed at the Executive or Judiciary, they must instead release an official **and in depth** public statement detailing their opinion on the petition. ~~The depth and specific contents of said statement remain at the discretion of the responding institution.~~

§1.3. The statement by the Executive or Judiciary must be made public within seventy-two (72) hours after the petition's signing period ended.

§1.4. The Senate must hold a debate, as detailed in §1.1., and a vote on the exact text of the petition immediately afterwards. If such a vote does not occur, this duty shall fall onto the next Senate, until a vote happens.

§2. If a petition requests that the Senate pass a legislative Act, Amendment, or Constitutional Amendment, the petitioner must include the full, exact text of the

proposed legislation within the petition.

§2.1. If a petition requests that the Senate repeal an existing piece of legislation, article, or clause, the petition needs only to unmistakably and clearly cite the exact legislation, article, or clause to be repealed.

§2.2. If a petition is directed at the Executive or Judiciary regarding policy or administration, it must clearly articulate the exact action or change of direction requested.

§2.3. If a petition seeks to impeach a member of the Executive, Senate, or Judiciary, it must explicitly name the individual(s) and provide a clear statement of the reasoning/grounds for impeachment. However, such a petition is legally non-binding, leaving it entirely to the discretion of the Senate whether to formally consider or pursue the impeachment.

§3. Any disputes regarding the faithful execution of the duties under this Article, with the exception of criminal or civil liability, shall be arbitrated before the Supreme Court.