INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITION

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED qualified voters of the state of South Dakota, petition that the following section or sections and article or articles of the South Dakota Constitution be amended and that this proposal be submitted to the voters of the state of South Dakota at the general election on November 8, 2016 for their approval or rejection.

Title: An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution limiting the ability to set statutory interest rates for loans

Attorney General Explanation:

Under this constitutional amendment, there is no limit on the amount of interest a lender may charge for a loan of money if the interest rate is agreed to in writing by the borrower. If there is no written agreement, however, a lender may not charge more than 18% interest per year. A law setting an interest rate for loans is not valid unless the law gives the lender and borrower the ability to agree to a different rate. If an interest rate for loans is established by law, it must apply to every type of lender.

The amendment eliminates the ability to set statutory interest rates that are inconsistent with this amendment.

Section 1. That article VI of the Constitution of South Dakota be amended by adding new sections to read as follows:

- 29. No lender may charge interest for the loan or use of money in excess of eighteen per cent per annum unless the borrower agrees to another rate in writing. No law fixing an annual percentage rate of interest for the loan or use of money is valid unless the law provides borrowers the right to contract at interest rates as may be agreed to by the parties.
- 30. No law fixing a rate of interest or return for the loan or use of money, or fixing the service or any other charge that may be made or imposed for the loan or use of money, for any particular group or class engaged in lending money is valid. Any rate of interest or charge fixed by law shall apply generally and to all lenders without regard to the type or classification of the lender's business.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS:

- 1. Signers of this petition must individually sign their names in the form in which they are registered to vote or as they usually sign their names.
- 2. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must add the residence address of the signer and the date of signing. If the signer is a resident of a second or third class municipality, a post office box may be used for the residence address.
- 3. Before the petition is filed, each signer or the circulator must print the name of the signer in the space provided and add the county of voter registration.
 - 4. Abbreviations of common usage may be used. Ditto marks may not be used.

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