

voter's choice in a primary or general election based upon the voter's party affiliation or lack of party affiliation.

§7 Each Candidate running for an elective office shall file, with the appropriate elections officer, petitions containing the signatures of registered voters in an amount to be established by law. The signature requirements established shall be based on the total votes cast for that office in the previous general election and shall be the same for all candidates for that office, regardless of party affiliation or lack of party affiliation.

§8 Nothing in this article restricts the right of any person to join or organize into a political party or in any way restrict the right to private association of political party. Nothing in this article restricts a party's right to contribute to, endorse, or otherwise support or oppose candidates for elective office. Each political party may establish such procedures as the party determines to elect party officers, endorse or support candidates, or otherwise participate in all elections. However, no such procedures may be paid for or subsidized using public funds. All qualified voters and candidates shall be treated equally by law and regulations governing elections regardless of party affiliation or lack of party affiliation.

§9 The provisions of §§4 to 9, inclusive, of this article apply to all elections occurring after January 1, 2018, except for the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and shall supersede any existing law, regulation, and elections procedure to the extent that such are consistent with this article. The Legislature, Secretary of State and local officials shall make such changes in and additions to laws, regulations, and elections procedures as are necessary to fully implement the provisions of this article in time for the open primary election in 2018 and for each open primary and general election thereafter. Laws, regulations, and elections procedures implementing this article shall permit and encourage all qualified voters in South Dakota to vote in primary and general elections for the candidates of the voter's choice.

## **Initiated Measure 21**

**Title:** An initiated measure to set a maximum finance charge for certain licensed money lenders

**Attorney General Explanation:**

The initiated measure prohibits certain State-licensed money lenders from making a loan that imposes total interest, fees and charges at an annual percentage rate greater than 36%. The measure also prohibits these money lenders from evading this rate limitation by indirect means. A violation of this measure is a misdemeanor crime. In addition, a loan made in violation of this measure is void, and any principal, fee, interest, or charge is uncollectable.

The measure's prohibitions apply to all money lenders licensed under South Dakota Codified Laws chapter 54-4. These licensed lenders make commercial and personal loans, including installment, automobile, short-term consumer, payday, and title loans. The measure does not apply to state and national banks, bank holding companies, other federally insured financial institutions, and state chartered trust companies. The measure also does not apply to businesses that provide financing for goods and services they sell.

A vote "Yes" is for prohibiting certain money lenders from charging more than 36% interest on loans.

A vote "No" is against the measure.

**Full Text of Initiated Measure 21:**

Section 1. That 54-3-14 be amended to read as follows:

The term "regulated lenders" as used in § 54-3-13 means:

- (1) A bank organized pursuant to chapter 51A-1, et seq.;
- (2) A bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 21;
- (3) A trust company organized pursuant to chapter 51A-6;

- (4) A savings and loan association organized pursuant to chapter 52-1, et seq.;
- (5) A savings and loan association organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1464;
- (6) Any wholly owned subsidiary of a state or federal bank or savings and loan association which subsidiary is subject to examination by the comptroller of the currency, or the federal reserve system, or the South Dakota Division of Banking, or the federal home loan bank board and which subsidiary has been approved by the United States secretary of housing and urban development for participation in any mortgage insurance program under the National Housing Act;
- (7) A federal land bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2011;
- (8) A federal land bank association organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2031;
- (9) A production credit association organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2091;
- (10) A federal intermediate credit bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2071;
- (11) An agricultural credit corporation or livestock loan company or its affiliate, the principal business of which corporation is the extension of short and intermediate term credit to farmers and ranchers;
- (12) A federal credit union organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1753;
- (13) A federal financing bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2283;
- (14) A federal home loan bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1423, et seq.;
- (15) A national consumer cooperative bank organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 3011;
- (16) A bank for cooperatives organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2121;
- (17) Bank holding companies organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1841, et seq.;
- (18) National Homeownership Foundation organized pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1701y;
- (19) Farmers Home Administration as provided by 7 U.S.C. § 1981;
- (20) Small Business Administration as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 633;
- (21) Government National Mortgage Association and Federal National Mortgage Association as provided by 12 U.S.C. § 1717;
- (22) South Dakota Housing Development Authority as provided by chapter 11-11;
- (23) Insurance companies, whether domestic or foreign, authorized to do business in this state, and which as a part of their business engage in mortgage lending in this state. However, § 54-3-13 does not exempt insurance companies from the provisions of § 58-15-15.8; or
- (24) Any wholly owned service corporation subsidiary of a domestic or foreign insurance company, authorized to do business in this state, and which subsidiary is subject to examination by the same insurance examiners as the parent company; or.

~~(25) An installment loan licensee under the provisions of chapter 54-4 and 54-6~~  
 Section 2. That 54-4-44 be amended to read as follows:

After procuring such license from the Division of Banking, the licensee may engage in the business of making loans and may contract for and receive interest charges and other fees at rates, amounts, and terms as agreed to by the parties which may be included in the principal balance of the loan and specified in the contract. However, no licensee may contract for or receive finance charges in excess of an annual rate of thirty-six percent, including all charges for any ancillary product or service and any other charge or fee incident to the extension of credit. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any loan made in violation of this section is void and uncollectible as to any principal, fee, interest, or charge.

Section 3. That chapter 54-4 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

No person may engage in any device, subterfuge, or pretense to evade the requirements of § 54-4-44, including, but not limited to, making loans disguised as a personal property sale and leaseback transaction; disguising loan proceeds as a cash rebate for the pretextual installment sale of goods or services; or making, offering, assisting, or arranging a debtor to obtain a loan with a greater rate of interest, consideration, or charge than is permitted by this chapter through any method including mail, telephone, internet, or any electronic means regardless of whether the person has a physical location in the state. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a violation of this section is subject to the penalties in § 54-4-44.