

# Self-Determination Referendum Act

**Model template, not a finished bill.** Every state's constitution and rules differ. Adapt this to your state, cite your state's own constitutional clause, and have a lawyer licensed in your state review it before it is filed. USexit supplies the template. You and your legislator file it.

*The analog of the Texas Independence Referendum Act. It puts the decision to the voters. It rests on the people's inherent right to alter, reform, or abolish their government as they think expedient. The vote is the people exercising that right, not asking permission to hold it.*

## An Act

relating to submitting to the voters of [STATE] the question of whether [STATE] should pursue becoming an independent nation, and to the effect of an affirmative vote.

Be it enacted by the [Legislature of STATE]:

### Section 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the [STATE] Self-Determination Referendum Act.

### Section 2. Findings.

The [Legislature of STATE] finds that:

1. All political power is inherent in the people of [STATE], who have at all times the right to alter, reform, or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient. *[adapt: cite your state's constitutional clause by article and section]*
2. The question of [STATE]'s political future is of such magnitude that it belongs to the people themselves, to be decided at the ballot box.
3. Peaceful, democratic self-determination by a vote of the people is a settled practice of free peoples, exercised in recent memory by Scotland, Quebec, and the United Kingdom.

### Section 3. Referendum submitted.

At the *[adapt: next general election, conform to your election code]*, the question set out in Section 4 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of [STATE].

### Section 4. Ballot question.

The question shall appear on the ballot substantially as follows:

“Should [STATE] pursue becoming an independent nation, with its own government, through a peaceful process directed by the people of [STATE]?” FOR / AGAINST *[adapt: conform wording and For/Against or Yes/No convention to your state's election code]*

## Section 5. Effect of the vote.

1. A vote on this question is an exercise by the people of [STATE] of their inherent right to alter, reform, or abolish their government as they may think expedient. *[adapt: cite your state's constitutional clause]*
2. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor, the people of [STATE] have decided that [STATE] shall pursue independence, and the [Governor] and the [Legislature of STATE] shall give that decision effect and act to secure the independence of [STATE] by lawful and peaceful means, including *[adapt: e.g. establishing a commission to direct the transition and to negotiate the terms of an orderly separation with the government of the United States]*.
3. The right of the people of [STATE] to decide this question is inherent and is not contingent on the consent of any other government. Any negotiation contemplated by this Act concerns the terms of an orderly separation, not the right of the people of [STATE] to make this decision.
4. All steps taken under this Act shall be lawful and peaceful.

## Section 6. Canvass and certification.

The result shall be canvassed and certified in the same manner as *[adapt: other statewide ballot measures under your election code]*.

## Section 7. Severability.

If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

## Section 8. Effective date.

*[adapt: per your state's default effective-date rule]*