

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION

2
3 ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

4
5 **Legislative Document**

No. 2039

6
7 H. P. 2118 House of Representatives, March 1, 1982
Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to
Joint Rule 26.

Referred to the Committee on Elections Laws. Sent up for concur-
rence and ordered printed.

8 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative J. Diamond of Bangor.

Cosponsors: Representative Murphy of Kennebunk, Representa-
tive Rolde of York and Representative D. Brown of Livermore Falls.

9
10 STATE OF MAINE

11
12 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
13 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO

14
15 AN ACT Relating to the Collection of
16 Signatures at Polling Places.

17
18 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

19 21 MRSA §893 is enacted to read:

20 §893. Collection of signatures

21 1. Prior notification. Any person who intends to col-
22 lect signatures on an initiative or referendum petition in a
23 voting place on election day may notify the warden of that
24 voting place before noon of the preceding day. Subject to
25 subsection 2, all persons who notify the warden under this
26 subsection shall have equal access to the area reserved
27 under subsection 2.

28 2. Reserved area. On the basis of the number of per-
29 sons notifying him under subsection 1, the warden of each
30 voting place shall reserve the area in that voting place
31 that is most reasonable in size and convenience for the col-
32 lection of signatures by the persons notifying him under

1 subsection 1. If the area most reasonably convenient for
2 that purpose is insufficient to accommodate every person
3 notifying him, the warden may limit the number of persons
4 collecting signatures there, provided that the limitation
5 applies equally to each petition question and that no peti-
6 tion group represented by a person notifying him is excluded
7 from the area altogether.

8 3. Nonreserved area. Any person may collect
9 signatures on initiative or referendum petitions in the
10 voting place, except that persons entitled under this
11 section to collect signatures in the area reserved under
12 subsection 2 shall have priority in that area.

13 4. Limitations. This section shall be subject to the
14 limitations in section 891.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 This bill improves the ability of election wardens to
17 cope with the increasing number of people circulating peti-
18 tions at the polling place on election day. Under this
19 bill, persons wishing to collect petition signatures at the
20 polls are encouraged to notify the warden in advance so that
21 the warden can provide them with a suitable area. If the
22 best area is not large enough to accommodate everyone noti-
23 fying him, the warden may limit the number of circulators in
24 the area. The limitation must apply equally to each peti-
25 tion question and no petition group that is represented by
26 someone who has preregistered may be excluded altogether.
27 Persons who have not notified the warden in advance may
28 still collect signatures in the voting place but will not
29 have priority in the reserved area. Collection of
30 signatures under this bill remains subject to current provi-
31 sions on activity at the polling place, including the pro-
32 hibition against interference with the free passage of
33 voters.

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