MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1	(New Draft of H.P. 819, L.D. 1059)
2	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
4 5	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
6 7	Legislative Document No. 1663
8	H.P. 1250 House of Representatives, May 23, 1983
9	Reported by Representative Nadeau from the Committee on Election
10	Laws and printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill presented by Representative McHenry of Madawaska.
11	Cosponsored by Senator Pearson of Penobscot, Senator Kany of Kennebec and Representative Rolde of York.
	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
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13 14	STATE OF MAINE
15	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16	NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
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18	AN ACT Concerning Explanations for
19	Referenda Questions which Appear on a
20 21	Ballot.
22	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
23	follows:
24	Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §702-A is enacted to read:
25	§702-A. Ballot items requiring voter approval
26	1. Wording of ballots for people's veto and ini-
27	tiative referenda. Ballots for a statewide vote on
28	people's veto and initiative questions shall set out
29	the question to be voted on in clear, concise and
30	direct language. The Secretary of State, by rules
31	adopted pursuant to the Maine Administrative Proce-
32	dure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, shall establish a
33	method for drafting ballot questions which will
34	attain that standard of readability.

- Order of questions on the ballot. The Secre-2 tary of State shall arrange questions on the ballot 3 in the following order: People's veto questions; initiated measures; bond issues; constitutional amend-ments; and other legislatively proposed referenda. 4 5 Within each group, questions shall be arranged in a 6 7 random order which is determined by a selection pro-8 cess conducted in public. All ballot questions shall 9 be numbered sequentially.
- 10 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1351, sub-§5 is enacted to 11 read:
- 5. Ballot question. The ballot question for initiative and people's veto referenda shall be drafted by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 702-A and rules adopted pursuant thereto. The question shall be conspicuously displayed on the face of the petition.

18 STATEMENT OF FACT

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This new draft combines elements of several bills dealing with the wording of ballot questions. The new draft:

- Requires statewide referenda ballot questions to be set out in clear, concise and direct language. The Secretary of State is given the responsibility of establishing a method of drafting which meets that standard of readability.
- 27 2. Establishes the order in which questions will appear on the ballot and provides for sequential numbering of all questions.
- 30 3. Requires that ballot questions for initiative 31 and people's veto referenda drafted by the Secretary 32 of State appear on the face of the petition.

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