

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

SMC
ROFS
2

Date: 5/16/19

L.D. 534
(Filing No. H-277)

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 391, L.D. 534, Bill, "An Act To Make Ballot Questions Easier To Read and Understand for Maine Voters"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§6, ¶¶B and C, as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 352, §3, are amended to read:

B. The Secretary of State shall write the question in a ~~simple~~, clear, concise and direct manner that describes the subject matter of the people's veto or direct initiative as simply as is possible.

C. The question for a direct initiative must be phrased so that an affirmative vote is in favor of the ~~people's veto or~~ direct initiative.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Explanation of effect of "yes" or "no" vote. The Secretary of State shall include on the ballot for each referendum question those portions of the statement prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to Title 1, section 353 that describe what a "yes" vote favors and what a "no" vote opposes. These statements must appear directly below the relevant referendum question and above the place on the ballot for the voter to designate the voter's choice.

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill but retains the emergency preamble and emergency clause. The amendment makes the following changes to the laws governing the printing of ballots for referendum questions.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

1. It requires that the Secretary of State draft the ballot question for a people's veto or a direct initiative in a clear, concise and direct manner that describes the subject matter of the people's veto or direct initiative as simply as is possible.

2. It eliminates the requirement that questions for a people's veto referendum be phrased so that an affirmative vote is in favor of the people's veto.

3. It requires that an explanation of the effect of a "yes" vote and the effect of a "no" vote be printed on the ballot immediately below each referendum question, including each people's veto, direct initiative, bond issue, constitutional amendment and other legislatively proposed referendum question.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 534

LR 1686(02)

An Act To Make Ballot Questions Easier To Read and Understand for Maine Voters

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A (H-277)*
 Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Referendum Costs	Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
	Nov-19	General	Bond Issue	Standard
<p>Including the Attorney General's statement explaining what a "yes" vote favors and what a "no" vote opposes for each referendum question on the ballot may require a second ballot to be printed. The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions requires production and delivery of a second ballot, an additional appropriation of \$172,000 may be required.</p>				