

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1635

H.P. 1089

House of Representatives, April 15, 2025

### An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation

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Received by the Clerk of the House on April 11, 2025. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.  
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and  
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook,  
JACKSON of Oxford, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2532**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 288, §2, is further amended to read:

## §2532. Referendum recount procedure

In the case of a referendum, a recount must be granted upon written application of 10% or 100, whichever is less, of the registered voters in the municipality, except that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a municipal referendum passes or fails by less than 1% of all the votes cast in the referendum, including any blank ballots cast, an automatic recount is required. The application must designate a person to be the official representative of the registered voters requesting the recount including the person's legal name, mailing address, residence address and telephone number. An official representative for the registered voters opposing the recount may be established by submission of an affidavit signed by 10 registered voters of the municipality. The time limits, rules and all other matters applying to candidates under section 2531-B apply equally to a referendum recount, except that provisions in section 2531-B applicable to the candidate requesting the recount and candidates not requesting the recount apply, for purposes of this section, to the official representative of the referendum recount and the official representative, if any, of the voters opposed to the recount, respectively.

## SUMMARY

This bill requires that, if a municipal referendum passes or fails by less than 1% of all the votes cast in the referendum, including any blank ballots cast, an automatic recount is required.