

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

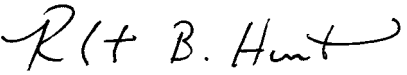
No. 1683

H.P. 1118

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

**An Act to Make a Freedom of Access Act Request Free of Charge
upon Petition**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
FREDERICKS of Sanford, HENDERSON of Rumford, LIBBY of Auburn, Senators:
HAGGAN of Penobscot, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §408-A, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Request accompanied by petition; no fees; timing of compliance. If the requestor submits a request pursuant to this section for a public record and that request is accompanied by a petition signed by at least 150 individuals registered to vote in this State making the same request, the agency or official having custody or control of the public record may not charge the requestor any of the costs incurred by the agency or official in complying with the request, including those specified in subsection 8.

An agency or official that receives a request pursuant to this subsection shall provide an update regarding the status of the request at least every 30 working days after the date the request is received, as determined pursuant to subsection 3.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act by:

1. Prohibiting the charging of a fee by an agency or official that has custody or control of a public record that is requested if that request is accompanied by a petition signed by at least 150 individuals registered to vote in this State making the same request; and

2. Requiring that the agency or official to provide an update regarding the status of the request at least every 30 working days; current law requires the agency or official to make a good faith effort to comply with the request within the nonbinding estimate of time provided by the agency or official.