

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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yes ✓

March 8, 1963

Joseph T. Edgar, Deputy Secretary  
Wayne B. Hollingsworth, Assistant

State  
Attorney General

**Initiative Petitions**

We are in receipt of your request for an opinion in which you ask:

**"If initiative petitions are circulated for the purpose of obtaining signatures with a view to submitting those petitions to the next session of the Legislature and if, for various reasons, those petitions and the signatures thereon are not submitted to the next session of the Legislature, may those same petitions be preserved and submitted to some subsequent Legislature?"**

We must answer that the initiative petitions are void if not filed within the time limit specified by Article IV, Part 3rd, section 13, Constitution of Maine. To allow the initiative petitions to be perpetuated ad infinitum would contravene both the purpose and intent of the constitutional provision requiring such petitions. It is our opinion that an elector signs such a petition to be used at a specific time and for a specific purpose, weighing the exigencies of the situation as they appear at that time, and it would not be the intent of said electors to bind themselves for time immemorial.

Wayne B. Hollingsworth  
Assistant Attorney General

WBH/slf