

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A " to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 158, L.D. 188, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Establish Filing Dates for Initiative and Referendum Petitions; Clarify when the Effective Date of a Bill is Suspended by the Filing of a Referendum Petition; Clarify the Process of Calling a Special Election for an Initiative or Referendum Vote; Limit Legislative Amendment and Repeal of Laws Initiated or Approved by the People; Clarify the Petition Process; and Provide for Review of the Validity of Petitions."

Amend said amendment by inserting at the end of the 3rd paragraph the following new sentences:

'In cities or towns which have boards of registration of voters, written petitions for either a referendum or an initiative must be submitted to the board of registration of voters for determination of whether the petitioners are qualified voters by the hour of five o'clock, p.m., on the seventh day before the petition must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, or, if such seventh day is a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday, by five o'clock, p.m., on the next day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday. In such city or town, the board of registration of voters must complete the certification of such petitions and must return them to the circulators or their agents within four days (Saturday, Sundays and legal holidays excepted) of the date on which such petitions are submitted to them. In such a city or town, the board of registration of voters shall not be required to complete within such a period of four days the certification of a total of more than twenty-five hundred signatures of petitioners.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to establish for cities and towns which have boards of registration, the larger cities and towns a different deadline for submitting petitions to determine whether or not the signers are registered voters. The deadline for such cities and towns would be seven days, instead of five or three as in the smaller towns, before the petitions must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. These boards shall have four business days rather than two in which to complete the review process. In addition, these boards shall not be required to review more than 2500 signatures in a four-day period.

Filed by Mr. Jensen of Portland.

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5/13/75

(Filing No. H-323)