

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE AMENDMENT " B " 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 striking out all of the 3rd paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Further amend said Bill in that part designated "Section 20." by striking out all of the 3rd sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:

Written petitions must be submitted to the appropriate officials of cities, towns or plantations 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. Such officials must complete the certification of such petitions and must return them to the circulators or

their agents within four days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, of the date on which such petitions were submitted to them.'

Statement of Fact

The resolution in its original form allowed 10 days before the deadline for filing petitions with the Secretary of State for local officials to certify that the signers of petitions are registered voters. The committee amendment reduced that time period to 5 days for referendum petitions and 3 days for initiative petitions and provided that the local officials must complete the certification within 2 business days. This amendment, in order to give more time to local officials, makes the time period 7 days and gives the local officials 4 business days to review signatures.

Filed by Mr. Jensen of Portland.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
5/16/75

(Filing No. H-374)