

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-470)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to H.P. 1159, L.D. 1458,  
Bill, "AN ACT to Prohibit False, Fraudulent or Deceptive  
Political Opinion Polls."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the title and  
inserting in place thereof the following: 'AN ACT to  
Require Sampling Information to Accompany Published Reports  
of Political Opinion Polls."

Further amend said bill by striking out everything  
after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof  
the following:

'17 MRSA §1636 is enacted to read:

§1636. Political public opinion polls  
Prohibition.

1. / No person shall make or cause to be made public  
through a television or radio broadcasting station, or a  
newspaper, magazine or other form of printed material, any  
results of a public opinion poll, purporting to be based on  
a representative sample, which also purports to indicate  
voter preferences for candidates in any election in this  
State, unless the report of such results also is accompanied  
with the following:

- A. A report of the method by which the sample, on  
which the poll is based, was drawn; and
- B. The size of such sample; and
- C. A statement based on scientific sampling theory,  
concerning the reliability of the results as a reflection  
of the preferences of the population sampled.

Definition.

2. / As used in this section, "Public opinion poll"

means the report or statement of the results of a canvass or questioning of a selected or random group of people to collect information as to how they intend to cast their votes in an election or as to their preferences either for candidates or for election results.

Penalties. by any person

3. / Any publication/ of such results of public opinion polls in violation of this section may be enjoined and/ shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 <sup>such person</sup> or/ imprisonment for not more than 30 days.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to provide information to potential voters concerning the accuracy of political opinion polls.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Judiciary.

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