MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE SENATE 108TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-163)

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1206, L.D. 1434, Bill,
"AN ACT to Repeal Certain Laws Relating to Alcoholic
Beverages."

Amend the Bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

<u>'Sec. 1. 28 MRSA §101, 1st ¶</u> as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 741, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

The city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation
assessors of this state shall notify the inhabitants of
their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in
the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,
at the time of holding any primary, special state wide or
general election, to vote upon any one or all of the following
questions:

- Sec. 2. 28 MRSA §101, 5th ¶ from the end, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 741, §5, is repealed.
- Sec. 3. 28 MRSA §101, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 741, §5, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs to read:

7.8

Where a city or town has voted in favor of accepting or not accepting the ballot questions, that vote shall be effective until repealed according to the procedure in the following paragraph.

A new vote may be held in a municipality upon one or more of the ballot questions, upon receipt of a petition of electors resident in that municipality, in writing addressed to the Secretary of State and signed by at least 15% of the number of voters voting for the gubernatorial candidates at the last statewide election in that municipality, which petition shall be filed with the Secretary of State 120 days prior to any general, primary or special statewide election. The ballots for that municipality shall carry questions in accordance with the petition.'

Further amend the Bill by renumbering sections to read consecutively

Statement of Fact

This amendment provides that elections on local option questions shall be held at primary, special or general state wide elections instead of at town meetings or municipal elections. Recent experience indicates that only a small percentage of voters will turn out for municipal elections. To return the law to the way it was previously will increase the percentage of citizens expressing their opinions on local option questions.

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COUNTY: York

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May 24, 1977 (Filing No. S-163)