

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 208

H. P. 174

House of Representatives, January 30, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lizotte of Biddeford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Prohibit the Gathering of Signatures Within 250 Feet of the Entrance to a Polling Place and Within any Registrar's Office.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 640 is enacted to read:

§ 640. Signature solicitation prohibited on election day in registrar's office

No person shall solicit or take signatures for any initiative petition or referendum petition on election day in the room in which a registrar is holding office hours or in any adjacent space in which persons are waiting to enter that room for a purpose designated in section 831.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 892, sub-§ 4 is enacted to read:

4. Signature solicitation prohibited. No person shall, on election day and within 250 feet of the entrance to a voting place, solicit or take signatures for any initiative petition or referendum petition.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill prohibits soliciting or taking signatures for initiative petitions or referendum petitions on election day within a registrar's office, within a waiting room for a registrar's office, or within 250 feet of the entrance to a voting place.

There have been many complaints by voters that they were bothered by signature gatherers while they were waiting to vote, and some have indicated that they resent this treatment. In order to remove this possible impediment to voting and to waiting in line to vote, this bill prohibits signature gathering among persons waiting to vote or to register to vote.