

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-336)  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 183, L.D. 235, Bill, "AN ACT to Make the Attorney General's Explanations of Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Statewide Referenda more Available to the Voters."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of section 1, and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §353, as amended by PL 1973, c.625, §3, is further amended to read:

§353. Explanation of proposed amendments

The Attorney General shall prepare a brief explanatory statement which shall fairly describe the intent and content of each constitutional resolution or <sup>state-wide</sup> statewide referendum that may be presented to the people. In addition to the explanatory statement, he shall prepare an explanation of what a yes vote favors and a no vote opposes. He shall cause to have published this explanatory statement in each daily newspaper of the State, such statement to be published not more than 45 days and not less than 30 days prior to the voting and publish such statement in each daily newspaper of the State a 2nd time, not more than 10 and not less than 7 days prior to the voting. Such explanatory statement may be published in the English language in a foreign language newspaper.'

Further amend the bill in section 2, by striking out everything after the amending clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Within a reasonable time before any election, the Secretary of State shall furnish each municipality with ballots, specimen ballots, instruction posters, election return forms, posters of specimen ballots for constitutional resolutions and statewide referenda, including the Attorney General's explanatory statements prepared under Title 1, section 353 and other materials necessary for conducting and reporting the results of the election.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3, by striking out everything after the amending clause and inserting in its place the following:

'At any time after receipt thereof and prior to the opening of the polls, the clerk may open the packages or boxes of election materials, break the seals on the packages not marked "ballots," use the materials for instructional purposes, and then the clerk or his designated agents shall post an adequate number of instruction posters, and posters of specimen ballots for constitutional resolutions and statewide referenda, including the Attorney General's explanatory statements prepared under Title 1, section 353, and specimen ballots in the voting room outside the guardrail.'

Further amend the Bill in section 4, by striking out the last line before the Statement of Fact and inserting in its place the following:

'All Other	<u>\$350</u>	<u>\$350</u> '
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Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to delete the requirement of a change in the style and location of <sup>an</sup> explanatory statement publication required by Title 1, section 353. Because of this change in the bill the appropriation required has been reduced from \$12,000 to \$350. It requires the Attorney General to provide an explanation of yes and no votes on constitutional resolutions and referenda and requires the explanatory statements on constitutional resolutions and referenda to be included in the posters of these specimen ballots provided by the Secretary of State.

Reported by Report "B" of the Committee on Election Laws  
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