

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1059

6
7 H.P. 819

House of Representatives, March 4, 1983

8 On Motion of Representative Nadeau of Lewiston, referred to the
9 Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McHenry of Madawaska.

Cosponsors: Senator Pearson of Penobscot, Senator Kany of Kennebec
and Representative Rolde of York.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT Concerning Explanations for
18 Referenda Questions which Appear on a
19 Ballot.
20

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

23 1 MRSA §353, as amended by PL 1979, c. 663, §1,
24 is further amended to read:

25 §353. Explanation of proposed amendments

26 The Attorney General shall prepare a brief
27 explanatory statement which shall fairly describe the
28 intent and, content and fiscal impact of each consti-
29 tutional resolution or statewide referendum that may
30 be presented to the people and which shall include
31 any information prepared under Title 5, section 152.
32 This statement shall be written as clearly as pos-
33 sible, in a manner which may be easily read and

1 understood at the state average reading comprehension
2 level. In addition to the explanatory statement, he
3 shall prepare an explanation of what a yes vote
4 favors and a no vote opposes. He shall cause to have
5 published this explanatory statement in each daily
6 newspaper of the State, such statement to be pub-
7 lished not more than 45 days and not less than 30
8 days prior to the voting and publish such statement
9 in each daily newspaper of the State a 2nd time, not
10 more than 10 and not less than 7 days prior to the
11 voting. Such explanatory statement may be published
12 in the English language in a foreign language news-
13 paper. This explanatory statement shall be promi-
14 nently displayed in all polling places during the
15 voting and shall also be posted in all voting booths
16 during the voting.

17

STATEMENT OF FACT

18 The purpose of this bill is to require that the
19 explanations of all statewide referenda questions be
20 written clearly and that the explanation be posted in
21 all polling places and in all voting booths to assist
22 the voters in understanding the referenda questions.

23

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