MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

15

NO. 347

House of Representatives, February 11, 1987 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield. Cosponsored by Senators CLARK of Cumberland, DUTREMBLE of York and PERKINS of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 2 3	AN ACT Concerning the Drafting of Ballot Questions.
<u>4</u> 5	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
6 7	<pre>Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §901, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:</pre>
8 9 .0 .1 .2	4. <u>Ballot question</u> . The ballot question for initiative and people's veto referenda shall be drafted by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 906 and rules adopted under it. The question must be conspicuously displayed on the face of the petition.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§6, as enacted by PL

1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

1	6. Wording of ballots for people's veto and ini-
2	tiative referenda. Ballots for a statewide vote on
3	people's veto and initiative questions must set out
4	the question to be voted on in elear, concise and di-
5	rest language concisely and intelligibly. All ballot
6	questions shall be so worded as to require a propo-
7	nent of the measure to vote "Yes" and an opponent to
8	vote "No." The Secretary of State, by rules adopted
9	under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title
10	5, chapter 375, shall establish a method for drafting
11	ballot questions which will attain that standard of
12	readability comply with these requirements.

Sec. 3. Application. Notwithstanding any other laws, this Act shall apply to all pending ballot questions that have not been voted on by the people on the effective date of this Act.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require that initiative and referendum ballot questions be drafted in such a way that a change in existing law requires a "Yes" vote and maintenance of existing law; that is, no change in the law requires a "No" vote.

23 1437020687