

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 851, L.D. 1145)  
(New Title)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1643

H.P. 1205 House of Representatives, May 20, 1987  
Reported by Representative PRIEST from the Committee on  
Legal Affairs and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative WEBSTER of Cape  
Elizabeth. Cosponsored by Representatives CASHMAN of Old  
Town, BEGLEY of Waldoboro, and Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Give Local Election Wardens  
Authority Concerning Gathering  
Petition Signatures.**

1  
2  
3  
4

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

7 21-A MRS A §662, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

8 4. Collection of signatures. The warden may se-  
9 lect and designate a specific location at the voting  
10 place, accessible and observable by the voters, where  
11 the collection of signatures may take place. The  
12 warden may limit the number of persons collecting  
13 signatures to one for each specific question, candi-  
14 date or issue. Persons collecting signatures may not

1 solicit a voter's signature until the voter has com-  
2 pleted voting. The warden may direct the removal, un-  
3 der subsection 2, paragraph A, of any person collect-  
4 ing signatures who does not comply with the require-  
5 ments of this subsection.

6

STATEMENT OF FACT

7 This new draft provides guidelines for local  
8 election wardens to ensure that the collection of pe-  
9 tition signatures does not interfere with orderly  
10 voting, while at the same time providing protection  
11 of the constitutional rights of petitioners. The war-  
12 den may select and designate a specific place for the  
13 collection to proceed, but that location must be ac-  
14 cessible to voters and voters must be able to readily  
15 observe the persons collecting signatures. The warden  
16 may limit the number of people gathering signatures  
17 to just one person for each specific question, candi-  
18 date or issue. The people collecting signatures can-  
19 not ask a voter to sign the petition until after that  
20 voter has voted. The warden may have any person vio-  
21 lating this section removed from the voting place.

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