

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 590, L.D. 808, "RESOLUTION,
Proposing An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow for
the Popular Initiation of Amendments to the Maine Constitution"

Amend the resolution by striking out everything after the
title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place
the following:

Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED: Two thirds of each
branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following
amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. Third, §18-A is enacted to read:

**Section 18-A. Direct initiative of an amendment to the
Constitution of Maine.**

1. **Petition procedure.** The electors may report to the
Legislature an amendment to the Constitution of Maine proposed by
the electors in a written petition which shall be filed in the
office of the Secretary of State by the hour of 5:00 p.m., on or
before the 50th day after the date of convening of the
Legislature in first regular session or on or before the 25th day
after the date of convening of the Legislature in second regular
session. If the 50th or 25th day, whichever applies, is a
Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period runs until the hour
of 5:00 p.m. of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or
legal holiday.

2. **Referral to electors.** For any amendment thus proposed
by electors, the number of signatures shall not be less than 25%
of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial
election preceding the filing of that petition. The date each
signature was made shall be written next to the signature on the
petition, and no signature older than one year from the written
date on the petition shall be valid. The amendment thus proposed
shall be submitted to the electors together with any amended
form, substitute or recommendation of the Legislature, and in the

1 manner that the people can choose between the competing
2 amendments or reject both. When there are competing amendments
3 and neither receives a majority of the votes given for or against
4 both, the one receiving the most votes shall, at the next
5 statewide election to be held not less than 60 days after the
6 first vote thereon, be submitted by itself if it receives more
7 than one third of the votes given for and against both.

9 3. Timing of elections. The Governor shall, by
10 proclamation, order any amendment to the Constitution of Maine
11 proposed by the electors in a written petition to be referred to
12 the people at an election to be held in November of the year in
13 which the Legislature is to convene in first regular session. If
14 the Governor fails to order a proposed amendment to be submitted
15 to the people at an election by proclamation within 10 days after
16 the recess of the Legislature to which the amendment was
17 reported, the Secretary of State shall, by proclamation, order
18 that amendment to be submitted to the people at an election as
19 requested, and that order shall be sufficient to enable the
20 people to vote.

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FISCAL NOTE

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The cost of sending this resolution out to referendum will
26 vary depending on the total number of referenda. The estimated
27 cost to the Secretary of State will be as follows:

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1-6 referenda	\$88,000
Each additional referendum	\$5,300'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment proposes to:

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1. Increase from 15% to 25% the percentage of signatures
needed to present initiated constitutional amendments to the
electorate; and

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2. Require that the electorate approve all initiated
constitutional amendments and to remove legislative action on
initiated constitutional amendments.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on State and Local Government
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
5/9/89

(Filing No. H-169)