

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 175, L.D. 430, Bill, "An Act to Prevent Discrimination"

Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

**Sec. 6. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at general election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at the next general election in the month of November following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Shall the Maine Human Rights Act be amended by providing a protected class for sexual orientation?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

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The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

FISCAL NOTE

The estimated cost of sending this Act out to referendum will vary according to the total number of referenda. The estimated cost to the Secretary of State if one to 6 referenda are enacted is \$95,000. Each additional referendum costs an additional \$6,500.

If approved by the voters, a new protected class would be added to the Maine Human Rights Act. The Maine Human Rights Commission may experience a minimal increase in its caseload and can absorb the associated costs within available resources.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment adds a referendum and a fiscal note to the bill.

Filed by Rep. Small of Bath  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House  
4/1/91 (Filing No. H-60)