

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 246

(Filing No. H-147)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 92, L.D. 246, 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 statewide election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday 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:

"Do you favor amending the Maine Human Rights Act to provide 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.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

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HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 92, L.D. 246

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

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8 **FISCAL NOTE**

10 The estimated cost of sending this bill out to referendum
will vary according to the total number of referenda enacted
12 during the First Regular Session of the 116th Legislature. The
estimated cost to the Secretary of State if one to 6 referenda
14 are enacted is \$95,000. Each additional referendum costs an
additional \$7,000.

16 If the referendum is approved by the voters, the Maine Human
Rights Commission would incur some minor additional costs to
18 investigate complaints involving discrimination due to sexual
orientation. These costs could be absorbed within the
20 commission's existing budgeted resources.

22 The additional workload and administrative costs associated
with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system
24 could be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial
Department.'

26
28 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 This amendment adds a referendum and a fiscal note to the
bill.
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Filed by Rep. Coffman
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
April 13, 1993 (Filing No H-147)