

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. of S.

L.D. 1931

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M I N O R I T Y
L E G A L A F F A I R S

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1417, L.D. 1931, Bill, "An Act to Promote Integrity in the Citizens Petition Process"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §903-B is enacted to read:

§903-B. Registration; reporting

The following provisions govern registration and reporting for the circulation of initiative or referendum petitions.

1. Registration. An organization formed to obtain signatures for an initiative or referendum petition shall register the name of a member of that organization and the ballot question with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. No later than 10 days after the organization to gather signatures for initiative or referendum petitions is formed and before accepting contributions, making expenditures or incurring obligations, the organization shall name a treasurer.

2. Reporting. Upon being named pursuant to subsection 1, the treasurer shall immediately report to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices the method for compensating persons working on the initiative or referendum

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 of 8

2 petition. If persons are compensated on the basis of each
3 signature gathered, the treasurer shall also report the payment
4 schedule to the commission.

6 3. Changes in registration and reporting information. A
7 change in the information required by this section to be reported
8 to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
9 must be reported within 10 days of the date of the change.

10 4. Person. For purposes of this section, "person" has the
11 same meaning as in section 1001.

12 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §904-A is enacted to read:**

13 **§904-A. Payment for signature; prohibition**

14 A circulator of an initiative or a referendum petition or a
15 person who causes the circulation of an initiative or referendum
16 petition may not pay or offer to pay any compensation to a person
17 for the person's signature on the initiative or referendum
18 petition.'

19 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
20 statement of fact the following:

21 **FISCAL NOTE**

22 The Department of the Secretary of State will incur some
23 minor additional costs to enforce the prohibition for circulators
24 of initiative and referendum petitions to compensate a person for
25 the person's signature. These costs can be absorbed within the
26 department's existing budgeted resources.

27 The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
28 will incur some minor costs to handle the additional registration
29 and reporting responsibilities. These costs can be absorbed
30 within the commission's existing budgeted resources.'

31 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing
33 Committee on Legal Affairs. The amendment replaces the original
34 bill.

35 The amendment prohibits a person who collects signatures for
36 an initiative or referendum petition from compensating or
37 offering to compensate a person for the person's signature.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1417, L.D. 1931

2 The amendment also establishes registration and reporting
requirements for initiative or referendum petition drives. The
4 amendment requires a treasurer to be named no later than 10 days
after an organization for a petition drive is formed and before
6 the organization accepts contributions, makes expenditures or
incurs obligations. The treasurer shall immediately report the
8 method of compensation for persons gathering signatures for the
petition drive. If payment is made per signature gathered, the
10 treasurer shall also report the payment schedule. All reports
required under this section must be made to the Commission on
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT