

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R-38

L.D. 1931

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
116TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" 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 petition. If persons are compensated on the basis of each signature gathered, the treasurer shall also report the payment schedule to the commission.

SENATE AMENDMENT

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

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

8
9 Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §904-A is enacted to read:

10 §904-A. Payment for signature; prohibition

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

16
17 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
18 statement of fact the following:

19
20
21 **FISCAL NOTE**

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

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

33
34
35
36 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

37 This amendment replaces the original bill.

38
39 The amendment prohibits a person who collects signatures for
40 an initiative or referendum petition from compensating or
41 offering to compensate a person for the person's signature.

42
43 The amendment also establishes registration and reporting
44 requirements for initiative or referendum petition drives. The
45 amendment requires a treasurer to be named no later than 10 days
46 after an organization for a petition drive is formed and before
47 the organization accepts contributions, makes expenditures or
48

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incurs obligations. The treasurer shall immediately report the method of compensation for persons gathering signatures for the petition drive. If payment is made per signature gathered, the 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.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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