# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

### FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 250

H.P. 197

House of Representatives, January 21, 1997

An Act Relating to the Collection of Initiative Petition Signatures at Polling Places.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GAMACHE of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator RAND of Cumberland and

Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, CAMERON of Rumford, Senator: O'GARA of

Cumberland.

#### Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

- Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §681, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:
- 4. Outside the guardrail enclosure. Party Except as provided in subsection 5, party workers and others may remain in the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure as long as they do not attempt to influence voters or interfere with their free passage. If any person attempts to influence voters or interfere with their free passage, the warden shall have him that person removed from the voting place.

### Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §681, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

- 5. Collection of signatures at voting place. A person may remain within the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure to collect signatures on petitions to invoke the initiative or people's veto referendum or to speak in opposition to the initiative or referendum only if the person:
- A. Is a registered voter in an electoral district served by that voting place;
  - B. Has made arrangements with the clerk or warden and otherwise complies with section 662, subsection 4;
- 28 <u>C. Does not attempt to influence a person's decision</u>
  regarding candidates or ballot issues other than the issue
  for which signatures are being collected; and
- D. Does not attempt to interfere with the free passage of voters.

For each person allowed to collect signatures on such petitions, the warden shall allow a person who meets the criteria set forth in this section to remain at the voting place to speak in opposition to the proposed initiative or veto to potential petition signers.

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#### SUMMARY

This bill allows a person to collect signatures on initiative or referendum petitions at a voting place only if the person is registered to vote in an electoral district served by that voting place. It also requires election wardens to allow a person to remain at the voting place to speak in opposition to the proposed initiative or referendum, but only if the person is a registered voter in an electoral district served by that voting place.