

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1342

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S.P. 421

In Senate, March 4, 1997

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**An Act to Improve Procedures for Citizen Referenda and Initiatives.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

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4       **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §662, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §57, is further amended to read:

6       **4. Collection of signatures.** The warden may select and designate a specific location at the voting place, ~~--accessible and observable by the voters,~~ where the collection of signatures may take place. This location must be accessible and observable by the voters, but must allow voters to exit the polling place without passing immediately by the signature collector. Persons collecting signatures at the polls may make arrangements with the clerk prior to election day and with the warden on election day. The warden may limit the number of persons collecting signatures to one for each specific question, candidate or issue. Persons collecting signatures may not solicit a voter's signature until the voter has completed voting. The warden may direct the removal, under subsection 2, paragraph A, of any person collecting signatures who does not comply with the requirements of this subsection.

22       **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

24       **4. Collection of signatures.** Within 250 feet of a voting place, a person may not collect signatures in a location that does not allow voters to exit the voting place without passing immediately by that location.

28       **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §903-A, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

30       **3. Copy of bill.** A circulator shall offer each potential signer a copy of the full text of the proposed law before the person signs the petition.

34       **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §903-B** is enacted to read:

36       **§903-B. Distribution of signatures**

38       A petition for citizen-initiated legislation must contain the signatures of a sufficient number of registered voters from each county to indicate widely distributed support for the legislation. The number of signatures required from each county is one percent of the total number of signatures required on the petitions pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

46       **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§6-B** is enacted to read:

48       **6-B. Summary.** For a direct initiative, the summary prepared pursuant to section 901, subsection 5 must appear after the question on the ballot.

