MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 560

H.P. 418

House of Representatives, January 19, 1999

SEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

An Act to Promote Ballot Clarity.

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

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §905-A is enacted to read:

\$905-A. Review of referendum questions proposed in legislation

The Secretary of State shall review all referendum questions proposed in legislation, including bond issues under the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, amendments to the Constitution of Maine under Article X. Section 4 and referendum questions required by a referendum clause, for clarity, intent, argument and the introduction of bias. The Secretary of State may maintain a ballot clarity board for the review of referendum questions. The Secretary of State shall issue a written decision on a referendum question to the legislative committee or committees of jurisdiction stating the reasons for the decision within 7 business days of receiving the question from the Legislature.

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SUMMARY

This bill requires that all referendum questions proposed by the Legislature, including bond issues, constitutional resolutions and referendum questions required by a referendum clause, be reviewed by the Secretary of State. This review may be conducted through a ballot clarity board created by the Secretary of State.