

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 377, L.D. 1078, Bill, "An Act to Extend Term Limits for Elected Officials and Constitutional Officers"

Amend the amendment by inserting after the title the following:

'Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, term limits on elected officials and constitutional officers imposed pursuant to current law is an important issue that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible; and

Whereas, this legislation is necessary to resolve issues regarding the appropriateness of term limits; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, ' '

Further amend the amendment in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 23 in amendment) by striking out the following: "Amend" and inserting in its place the following: 'Further amend'

2 Further amend the amendment in section 2 in the 2nd line  
(page 1, line 28 in amendment) by striking out the following:  
4 "This" and inserting in its place the following: 'Subject to the  
requirements of section 3 being met, this'

6 Further amend the amendment by inserting after section 2 the  
following:

8 'Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the  
10 following:

12 '**Sec. 3. Contingent effective date; circulation of petitions; number of  
signatures; verification.** This Act does not take effect for purposes  
14 of submission to the voters of this State unless the following  
conditions are met:

16  
18 1. By 5:00 p.m. on or before the 90th day after adjournment  
sine die of the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature,  
20 or if such day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, by the  
hour of 5:00 p.m. of the preceding day that is not a Saturday,  
22 Sunday or legal holiday, at least the number of signatures  
required by subsection 2 must be gathered and filed in the office  
24 of the Secretary of State by those Legislators voting in favor of  
this Act in order to send this Act to the referendum specified in  
26 section 2. In order to fulfill this requirement, signatures may  
be gathered by the Legislator personally or by a group organized  
28 by the Legislator for the purpose of gathering signatures.

30 2. The number of signatures collected must be greater than  
or equal to 10% of the total vote cast for Governor in the 1998  
32 gubernatorial election. Signatures must be collected in each  
county.

34 3. Signatures must be verified by the Secretary of State in  
accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section  
36 905, subsection 1.

38 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, that section of this Act that establishes the procedure  
40 for gathering signatures takes effect when approved.' '

42  
44 **FISCAL NOTE**

46 The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions within  
the Department of the Secretary of State will incur some minor  
48 additional costs to verify signatures. These costs can be  
absorbed by the bureau utilizing existing budgeted resources.

R.O.S.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 377, L.D.  
1078

**SUMMARY**

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This amendment requires the extension of term limits for elected officials and constitutional officers as proposed in the bill to be submitted to the voters of this State only if, within 90 days of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature, Legislators gather a number of signatures greater than or equal to 10% of the number of votes cast for Governor in the 1998 gubernatorial election. Signatures must be collected in each county.

SPONSORED BY: Rep Belinda Gerry  
(Representative GERRY)  
TOWN: Auburn

**HOUSE AMENDMENT**