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

HOUSE AMENDMENT "H" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 420, L.D. 1257, Bill, "An Act to Regulate Push Polling"

Amend the amendment in section 1 in subsection 4 by striking out all of paragraph A and inserting in its place the following:

'A. "Push poll" means any series of more than 1,000 telephone calls in the case of an election for a statewide office, more than 500 telephone calls in the case of an election to the State Senate or more than 250 telephone calls in the case of an election to the State House of Representatives, commenced within 17 days prior to that election, that interview voters and are designed to influence a voter's decision with a series of questions that intentionally purport to be an objective opinion poll concerning an issue or issues but that are worded to suggest answers that mislead or misrepresent the position of a candidate or that provide false or misleading information regarding a candidate.'

Further amend the amendment in section 2 in that part designated "§1014-B." in the next to the last line (page 2, line 23 in amendment) by inserting after the following: "who" the following: 'knowingly and willfully'

SUMMARY

This amendment incorporates the changes made by Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "B" and changes the definition of "push poll" to mean any series of more than 1,000 telephone calls in the case of an election for a statewide

Page 1-LR0230(11)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "H" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 420, L.D.

office, more than 500 telephone calls in the case of an election to the State Senate or more than 250 telephone calls in the case of an election to the State House of Representatives, commenced within 17 days prior to that election, that interview voters and are designed to influence a voter's decision with a series of questions that intentionally purport to be an objective opinion poll concerning an issue or issues but that are worded to suggest answers that mislead or misrepresent the position of a candidate or that provide false or misleading information regarding a candidate.

This amendment also adds the requirement of a knowing or willful mental state as part of the criminal violation.

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SPONSORED BY: (Representative MARTIN)

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Page 2-LR0230(11)