

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

---

Legislative Document

No. 1431

H.P. 1020

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Require Signatures from All Counties on Direct Initiative Petitions.**

---

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Holden.  
Cosponsored by Representative O'NEAL of Limestone.

2           **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each  
branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following  
amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

4                   **Constitution, Art. IV, Part Third, §18, sub-§2** is amended to read:

6                   **2. Referral to electors unless enacted by the Legislature**  
8 **without change; number of signatures necessary on direct**  
10 **initiative petitions; dating signatures on petitions; competing**  
12 **measures.** For any measure thus proposed by electors, the number  
of signatures shall not be less than 10% of the total vote for  
14 Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the  
filing of such petition. At least 6% of the required number of  
16 signatures must be collected in each county. The date each  
signature was made shall be written next to the signature on the  
petition, and no signature older than one year from the written  
18 date on the petition shall be valid. The measure thus proposed,  
unless enacted without change by the Legislature at the session  
at which it is presented, shall be submitted to the electors  
20 together with any amended form, substitute, or recommendation of  
the Legislature, and in such manner that the people can choose  
22 between the competing measures or reject both. When there are  
competing bills and neither receives a majority of the votes  
24 given for or against both, the one receiving the most votes shall  
at the next statewide election to be held not less than 60 days  
26 after the first vote thereon be submitted by itself if it  
receives more than 1/3 of the votes given for and against both.  
28 If the measure initiated is enacted by the Legislature without  
change, it shall not go to a referendum vote unless in pursuance  
30 of a demand made in accordance with the preceding section. The  
Legislature may order a special election on any measure that is  
32 subject to a vote of the people.

34 ; and be it further

36           **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**  
38 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall  
notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and  
40 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding  
a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday  
42 following the first Monday of November following the passage of  
this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment  
proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

44                   "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require  
46 signatures on direct initiative petitions to be collected in  
all counties?"

48

2 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall  
vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a  
4 cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below  
the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,  
6 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings  
and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as  
8 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review  
the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes  
10 are cast in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim  
that fact without delay and the amendment becomes part of the  
12 Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

**Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the  
14 Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town  
and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution  
16 necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

#### 18 SUMMARY

**20** This resolution proposes amending the Constitution of Maine  
to require that at least 6% of the number of signatures required  
22 on a petition to directly initiate legislation be collected in  
each of the 16 counties.