

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1503

S.P. 502

In Senate, February 25, 1999

**An Act to Require any Person or Organization That Gathers Signatures
on Petitions for Referendum Questions to Make Full Financial
Disclosure to the Commission on Governmental Ethics.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAREY of Kennebec.

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

4 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA, Chapter 13, Subchapter III-A is enacted to
read:

6 SUBCHAPTER III-A
8 DISCLOSURE BY PERSONS OR ORGANIZATION
COLLECTING SIGNATURES FOR REFERENDUM PETITIONS

10 §1041. Definitions

12 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise
14 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

16 1. Circulator. "Circulator" has the same meaning as
18 defined in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third,
Section 20.

20 2. Direct initiative of legislation. "Direct initiative of
22 legislation" means the procedure established in the Constitution
of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

24 3. Paid signature collector. "Paid signature collector"
26 means a person, firm or organization that contracts or
subcontracts or is paid anything of value to collect signatures
28 on a petition for a people's veto or a direct initiative of
legislation.

30 4. People's veto. "People's veto" means the procedure
32 established in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third,
Section 17.

34 §1042. Disclosure required; report

36 A paid signature collector shall report to the commission
38 the following information:

40 1. Name of paid signature collector. The name, address and
telephone number of the paid signature collector;

42 2. Amount and source of funds. The amount and source of
44 the money received by the paid signature collector for the
collection of signatures;

46 3. Officers or directors. If applicable, the names and
48 addresses of officers or directors of the paid signature
collector and compensation paid to those officers and directors;

2 4. Circulators. The names, addresses and telephone numbers
3 of circulators used by the paid signature collector and the
4 amount paid to each circulator;

5 5. Length of residence. The length of time the circulator
6 has been a resident of this State; and

7 6. Other information. Any other information the commission
8 determines necessary to preserve the integrity of the direct
9 initiative of legislation and people's veto procedures.

10 **§1043. Forms; filing dates; cumulative information**

11 The commission shall prepare and make available forms to be
12 used by the paid signature collectors. Using these forms, a paid
13 signature collector shall file monthly with the commission the
14 reports required by section 1042. The reports must be filed each
15 month until the process of collecting signatures is completed.
16 The paid signature collector shall include the monthly and total
17 amounts.

18 **§1044. Exemption**

19 This subchapter does not apply to a circulator who is a paid
20 employee of a paid signature collector required to file a report
21 by this subchapter.

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SUMMARY

41 This bill requires a person, firm or organization that
42 contracts, subcontracts or agrees for compensation to circulate a
43 petition for the constitutional procedure of direct initiative of
44 legislation or people's veto to file monthly reports with the
45 Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.
46 Information in the report must include the names and addresses of
47 the person, firm or organization responsible for the collection
48 of signatures and the amount of payments made to the person, firm
49 or organization and its directors. Also required are the names,
50 addresses and length of residency in Maine of any persons hired
51 or used to circulate the petition.