

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 59

H.P. 50

House of Representatives, January 9, 2001

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
to Increase the Number of Signatures Required on Direct Initiative
Petitions.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MAYO of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator SHOREY of Washington, Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, MURPHY of Berwick, TRAHAN of Waldoboro,
Senator: McALEVEY of York.

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
Constitution on the date of the proclamation; and be it further

12
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.

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SUMMARY

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This resolution proposes amending the Constitution of Maine
22 to require that the number of signatures required on a petition
to directly initiate legislation be not less than 15% of the
total vote for Governor cast in the last preceding gubernatorial
24 election. The currently required percentage is 10%.