

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 711, L.D. 926, Bill, "An Act to Reform the Direct Initiative Process to Eliminate Abuses and Provide Greater Citizen Input in the Initiative Process"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions within the Department of the Secretary of State will require additional General Fund appropriations to provide public notice that a citizen initiative petition has been submitted, and to invite public comment on the wording of the ballot question for a period of 10 days. The cost can not be determined at this time. The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions estimates the cost to run one initiative in a "2 column by 4 inch" block ad format in a weekday edition of 5 daily newspapers in Maine would be approximately \$875. The bureau indicates that an average of 10 applications for citizen initiatives have been submitted each year since 1995. Therefore, the bureau estimates the minimum annual cost for 10 individual public notice ads in the "2 column

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2 by 4 inch" block format would be \$8,758. If more information
were to be provided in the ad, or if the public notice were for
4 more than one initiative, the size of the ad, as well as the
cost, would increase.'

6
8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing
Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs. This amendment strikes
12 the provision in the bill that requires that citizen initiative
petitions include an economic and environmental impact statement
14 prepared by the Executive Department, State Planning Office. It
retains the provision that requires the Secretary of State to
hold a public hearing on the wording of the ballot question.

16 This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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