

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1160

S.P. 346

In Senate, February 28, 2001

An Act for Public Disclosure of Referendum Question Submissions.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative DAIGLE of Arundel and
Senator CARPENTER of York, Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, ETNIER of
Harpwell, MAYO of Bath.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §907** is enacted to read:

6 **§907. Disclosure of ballot questions**

8 **1. Notice required.** At least one week before the election,
10 the Secretary of State shall send by regular mail to every
12 registered voter a notice detailing any statewide direct petition
14 that will appear on the ballot. The notice must be in an
16 easy-to-read booklet form.

18 **2. Notice contents.** The booklet must include for each
20 direct initiative question:

22 **A. The complete text of the initiative legislation that**
24 **appeared on the petition, including the summary;**

26 **B. A neutral nonpartisan analysis of the effect of passage**
28 **in existing laws;**

30 **C. A statement of fiscal and tax consequences of the**
32 **initiative legislation; and**

34 **D. Statements by proponents and opponents and rebuttals to**
36 **those statements.**

38 **3. Rulemaking.** The Secretary of State shall adopt routine
40 **technical rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375,**
subchapter II-A to implement this section.

SUMMARY

34 This bill requires the Secretary of State to send a booklet
36 to every registered voter in the State detailing the petition
38 language, providing an analysis of tax and fiscal consequences
40 and the effect on existing law, and including statements for and
against every direct initiative question that will appear on the
ballot at the next statewide election.