

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. 1000, L.D. 1337, Bill, "An Act to Hold Petition Circulators to the Same Standards as Political Candidates"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Circulation of Petitions at the Voting Place'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §662, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §57, is further amended to read:

4. Collection of signatures. ~~The warden may select and designate a specific location at the voting place, accessible and observable by the voters, where the collection of signatures may take place.~~ A person may not circulate a direct initiative petition within the voting place or within 50 feet of the voting place. Persons collecting signatures at the polls may make arrangements with the clerk prior to election day and with the warden on election day. The warden may limit the number of persons collecting signatures to one for each specific question, candidate or issue. Persons collecting signatures may not solicit a voter's signature until the voter has completed voting. The warden may direct the removal, under subsection 2, paragraph A, of any person collecting signatures who does not comply with the requirements of this subsection.

2 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide**
3 **election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted
4 to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election
5 held in November 2002. The municipal officers of this State
6 shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns
7 and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
8 holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or
9 rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

10 "Do you want to ban the collection of signatures for a
11 petition within 50 feet of the voting place?"

12 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
13 vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
14 by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
15 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received,
16 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
17 meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same
18 manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
19 shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of
20 the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
21 proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30
22 days after the date of the proclamation.

23 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
24 city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
25 Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.'

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

28
29
30 **FISCAL NOTE**

31 The estimated cost of sending this measure out to referendum
32 will vary according to the total number of referenda enacted
33 during the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature to be
34 submitted to the voters in November. The estimated cost to the
35 Secretary of State if one to 6 referenda are enacted is
36 \$121,392. Each additional referendum costs an additional \$8,000.'

37
38 **SUMMARY**

39 This amendment amends the bill by changing the title and
40 prohibiting the collection of direct initiative petition
41 signatures within 50 feet of a voting place if approved by the
42 voter referendum in November 2002.

43 The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.