

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 859

DATE: 5-1-03

(Filing No. H-228)

MINORITY
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 636, L.D. 859, Bill, "An Act To Require That the Costs Associated with Enacting a Direct Initiative Appear on the Ballot"

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 §906, sub-§6-B is enacted to read:

6-B. Fiscal impact of direct initiative referenda. Whenever a direct initiative of legislation is presented to the voters of the State pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18, the question presented to the voters must be accompanied on the ballot by a statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed legislation on state revenues, appropriations and allocations. The Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall prepare the fiscal statement. The validity of the direct initiative legislation and of the voters' ratification of that legislation is not affected by any errors in the fiscal impact estimate. If the actual fiscal impact varies from such an estimate, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the legislation is not affected by reason of the variance.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report and replaces the bill.

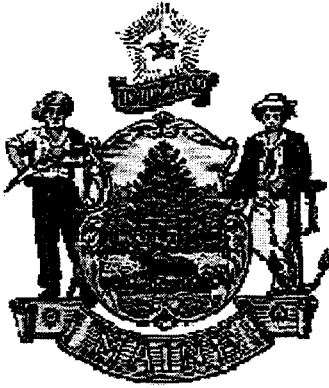
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 636, L.D. 859

2 The amendment amends the provision of the bill regarding the
preparation of the fiscal statement by directing the Office of
4 Fiscal and Program Review to prepare it. The amendment also adds
a provision specifying that the validity of the direct initiative
6 legislation is not affected by the validity of the fiscal
estimate.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**



LD 859

An Act To Require That the Costs Associated with Enacting a Direct Initiative Appear on the Ballot

LR 0616(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Minority Report

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The requirement that ballots for an initiative referenda contain a fiscal impact statement may increase the General Fund costs to the Department of the Secretary of State by increasing the length of the ballots. The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the size of the referendum questions increases the ballot length, an additional appropriation of \$8,000 or more may be required. The amounts will depend on the number of initiative referenda and the length of the fiscal impact statement.