

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1308

DATE: 5-8-03

(Filing No. H-300)

MAJORITY
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. 962, L.D. 1308, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Restrict the Appearance of Referenda on Ballots at General Elections"

Amend the resolution on page 1 by striking out all of section 24 (page 1, lines 7 to 13 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'24. Timing of referenda. Except for ratification by the voters pursuant to a people's veto under Section 17, whenever ratification by a majority of the electors is essential to the validity of a legislative measure, the referendum question must appear on the ballot at the annual statewide election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November; and except also that, whenever 2/3 of both Houses declare it an emergency by a separate vote, the referendum question may appear on the ballot at a primary or special election.'

Further amend the resolution on page 1 in section 14 in the 16th and 17th lines (page 1, lines 33 and 34 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "a general ~~or-special~~ election" and inserting in its place the following: '~~a-general-or-special~~ an election designated in Article IV, Part Third, Section 24'

Further amend the resolution by striking out all of the question (page 2, lines 33 to 36 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 ' "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to
4 require that referendum questions appear on the ballot at
6 the statewide election in November, except for people's veto
questions and questions that 2/3 of the Legislature have
declared to be emergencies?" '

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SUMMARY

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12 This amendment is the majority report. This amendment
14 changes the requirements for the timing of referenda to specify
16 that referendum questions must appear on the ballot at a
statewide election in November, except for people's vetoes and
questions that 2/3 of the Legislature have declared to be
emergencies.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review



LD 1308

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
To Restrict the Appearance of Referenda on Ballots at General Elections**

LR 1103(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Potential current biennium cost decrease - General Fund

Referendum Costs

Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
Nov-03	General	Referendum	Standard

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions increases the ballot length, an additional appropriation of \$8,000 or more may be required. A special election would require an additional appropriation of \$121,392.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Putting this resolution on the ballot may increase costs. If approved by the voters there could be savings from not having as many special elections.