

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 374

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 121, L.D. 374, Bill, "An Act To Create a Protected Zone around the Voting Place"

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

'An Act Regarding the Voting Place'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 3.

Further amend the bill in section 5 by striking out all of paragraph D and inserting in its place the following:

'D. These limitations do not prohibit the collection of signatures on petitions to place a direct initiative or referendum on the ballot at a future election or the opposition to the collection of these signatures, subject to the following restrictions:

(1) If there is sufficient space in the voting place to accommodate the collection of signatures in addition to the required election day activities, the warden shall select and designate a specific location in the voting place where such activity is permitted. This location must be outside the guardrail enclosure and must be accessible and observable by voters. It must be large enough to accommodate an opponent to the petition who requests access to the polling place as well as the petition circulator;

(2) Petition circulators must notify the municipal clerk by noon of the day before election day that they wish to collect signatures on election day;

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- 2 (3) The warden shall limit to one each the number of
4 petition circulators and opponents for each specific
 question or issue;
- 6 (4) The warden shall designate the location for each
8 petition according to the order in which the circulator
10 of each petition arrives at the voting place but must
12 allow a person opposing a particular petition who
14 requests access to locate next to that petition. If
 there is limited space within the voting place for
 signature collection, a particular petition circulator
 and an opponent to that petition who requests access
 must both be located either inside or outside the
 voting place;
- 16 (5) A petition circulator or opponent may not approach
18 a voter or collect a voter's signature until after the
 voter has completed voting;
- 20 (6) A petition circulator or opponent may not disrupt
22 the free passage of voters into and out of the voting
 place and the guardrail enclosure;
- 24 (7) Advertising may not be displayed regarding a
26 petition, except that a petition circulator and
28 opponent may each display a sign containing the
 petition title or question, with a designation that the
 person is in favor of or opposed to that petition;
- 30 (8) A petition circulator or opponent may distribute
32 literature related to a particular petition to voters
34 only after they have voted, as long as the literature
 distribution does not violate subsection 2;
- 36 (9) A petition circulator or opponent may not
38 communicate with voters in a manner that could
40 influence voters who have not yet voted regarding
 another question or a candidate that is on the ballot
 for the election that day;
- 42 (10) A petition circulator or opponent may not
44 obstruct, disrupt or otherwise interfere with the
 other's ability to communicate with voters concerning
 the petition; and
- 46 (11) The warden may direct the removal of any petition
48 circulator or opponent who does not comply with the
 requirements of this paragraph or of section 662.'
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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 121, L.D. 374

Further amend the bill in section 6 in subsection 3 in the 3rd line from the end (page 2, line 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "registrar's office" and inserting in its place the following: 'building in which the registrar's office is located'

Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 8 in the first paragraph in the last line (page 3, line 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "clerk's office" and inserting in its place the following: 'building in which the clerk's office is located'

Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 8 in the 2nd paragraph in the last line (page 3, line 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "clerk's office" and inserting in its place the following: 'building in which the clerk's office is located'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment changes the title of the bill and replaces the section of the bill that places those collecting signatures for petitions a minimum of 25 feet outside the voting place with guidelines for the presence of petitioners at the voting place, including allowing space for those who oppose the petition for which signatures are being collected.