

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5/2/5

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Minority

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 381, L.D. 506, Bill, "An Act To Abolish the Maine Clean Election Act"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 14 the following:

Sec. 15. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at the next statewide election in the month of November following the passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor repealing the Maine Clean Election Act?"

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
3 city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
4 Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.'

6
8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment is the minority report of the committee and
11 requires that this bill be sent to voters at the next statewide
12 election in November. The question posed to voters would read:
13 "Do you favor repealing the Maine Clean Election Act?"

14
16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
(See attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 506

LR 0239(02)

An Act To Abolish the Maine Clean Election Act

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment **A**

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Minority Report

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Current biennium cost decrease - General Fund

Current biennium revenue decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds

Referendum Costs

Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
Nov-05	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.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The repeal of the Maine Clean Election Act would result in net savings to the General Fund of \$2,198,578 and \$2,196,267 in fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07, respectively. These amounts reflect the net savings between scheduled transfers to the Maine Clean Election Fund that would not have to be made and additional salary costs which would now have to be paid by the General Fund. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices would require Other Special Revenue Funds deallocations of \$7,357,977 and \$3,443,726 in fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07, respectively. The commission would also experience a loss in budgeted Other Special Revenue Funds revenue in the amounts of \$5,108,029 and \$1,193,726 for the same time period.

Upon the effective date of repeal, the Maine Clean Election Fund is likely to have an unspent balance remaining in the fund; the amounts can not be determined at this time and the disposition of these remaining funds is not addressed in the bill.