

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 648, L.D. 929, Bill, "An Act To Create Freedom of Citizen Information Regarding Ballot Questions and Political Action Committees"

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

'An Act To Create Freedom of Citizen Information Regarding Ballot Questions'

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 §901-A is enacted to read:

§901-A. Petition requirements for direct initiatives of legislation

The following provisions apply to direct initiatives of legislation under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

1. Opportunity to read direct initiative summary. A person circulating a petition must provide the voter the opportunity to read the proposed direct initiative summary required by section 901 prior to that voter signing the petition. The summary presented to the voter must be as it appears on a publicly accessible website established by the Secretary of State.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 2. Required statements. The Secretary of State shall
3 include the following statements at the top of the petition to be
4 submitted to voters in a type size of no less than 16 points:

5 "Freedom of Citizen Information: Before a registered voter
6 signs any initiative petition, signature gatherers must
7 offer the voter the opportunity to read the proposed
8 initiative summary prepared by the Secretary of State."

9 "Ballot questions during the 20.. election [most recent
10 election cycle] cost taxpayers approximately \$.....
11 [Secretary of State shall use fiscal information provided by
12 the Office of Fiscal and Program Review] each to be placed
13 on the ballot. As a citizen of Maine, you have a right to
14 this information."

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17 **SUMMARY**

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20 The amendment retains the provisions of the bill that
21 requires circulators of direct initiative petitions to provide
22 registered voters the opportunity to read the summary of the
23 proposed direct initiative prior to signing the petition and that
24 require the petition to include certain statements informing
25 potential signers that they must be afforded the opportunity to
26 read the summary and of the costs of placing questions on a
27 ballot.

28 This amendment removes all other provisions of the bill.