

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.O.S.

L.D. 1608

DATE: 6-1-05

(Filing No. S-316)

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Reported by:

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 590, L.D. 1608, "Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Study Methods To Improve Ballot Access"

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

'Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative Process and Minor Party Ballot Access'

Further amend the resolve in the emergency preamble by striking out all of the 2nd paragraph (page 1, lines 5 and 6 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Whereas, this legislation establishes the Commission To Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative Process and Minor Party Ballot Access; and'

Further amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission To Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative Process and Minor Party Ballot Access, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate. When making the appointments, the President of

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 590, L.D. 1608

2 the Senate shall ensure representation from both political
parties and give preference to members from the Joint Standing
Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs;

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6 2. Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. When making the
appointments, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
8 ensure representation from the major parties, include an
unenrolled member or a member of a minor party and give
10 preference to members from the Joint Standing Committee on Legal
and Veterans' Affairs;

12 3. The Secretary of State or a designee;

14 4. The Attorney General or a designee;

16 5. A representative of the Maine Municipal Association;

18 6. A representative of the Maine Town and City Clerks'
20 Association; and

22 7. A member of the public, appointed by the Governor.'

24 Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 5
and inserting in its place the following:

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28 **'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine
proposals to improve ballot access and address issues regarding
elections and the citizen initiative process, including, but not
30 limited to:

32 1. The institution of an "instant run-off" method of
determining the winners of elections, which simulates the ballot
34 counts that would occur if all voters participated in a series of
run-off elections and allows a voter to rank candidates according
36 to that voter's preferences;

38 2. The implementation of "fusion voting," which authorizes
cross-endorsement or the practice of multiple parties or
40 political designations nominating the same candidate;

42 3. Facilitating the formation of minor political parties;

44 4. The implementation of a vote-by-mail system; and

46 5. Informing the public about the fiscal implications of
proposed citizen initiated legislation; and be it further'

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H. 016

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 'A' to S.P. 590, L.D. 1608

SUMMARY

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This amendment changes the name of the study commission, alters the membership and includes in the commission's duties the duty to inform the public about the fiscal implications of proposed citizen initiated legislation.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



Approved: 05/27/05 *MCC*

122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1608

LR 2319(02)

Resolve, To Establish a Study Commission To Study Methods To Improve Ballot Access

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

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current Costs - Legislative Study

Legislative Study

The projected costs to fund the general operating expenses of the Commission to Study Methods to Improve Ballot Access are \$4,780 in fiscal year 2005-06. The Legislature's current budget includes \$30,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 2006-07 for legislative studies. Whether the amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs associated with participating as a member of the commission can be absorbed by the Department of the Secretary of State and the Department of the Attorney General utilizing existing budgeted resources.