

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 176

S.P. 58

In Senate, January 16, 2007

An Act To Provide Notice to the General Public about Proposed Initiative Questions

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts of the Legislature do not become effective
2 until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day
4 period in order to provide the public with its benefits in advance of the next statewide
5 election; and

6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
9 therefore,

10 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

11 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§6, ¶C-1** is enacted to read:

12 C-1. The Secretary of State shall give reasonable notice to the general public of the
13 proposed initiative question and provide a period of no less than 30 days for
14 comments from the general public with respect to the accuracy of the proposed
15 initiative question. After accepting and reviewing that commentary, the Secretary of
16 State shall finalize the initiative question.

17 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes
18 effect when approved.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill requires the Secretary of State to provide notice to the general public when
21 the Secretary of State drafts a question that will be on a ballot for a citizen initiative. The
22 bill also requires the Secretary of State to provide a 30-day opportunity for members of
23 the general public to provide comments with respect to the accuracy of the proposed
24 question. After accepting and reviewing all commentary submitted, the Secretary of State
25 would then finalize the initiative question.