MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1	L.D. 176
2	Date: 424/15 (Filing No. H-98)
3	VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
4	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
5	STATE OF MAINE
6	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7	127TH LEGISLATURE
8	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
9 10 11	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 134, L.D. 176, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda"
12 13	Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:
14 15	'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
16 17 18	Whereas, the integrity of the process for collecting signatures of direct initiative and people's veto referenda is paramount to the implementation of this form of direct democracy; and
19 20	Whereas, the collection of signatures for new direct initiatives and potential people's veto referenda may occur before the 90-day period has expired; and
21 22 23 24	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
25	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
26 27	Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §903-A, first \P , as enacted by PL 1989, c. 92, §1, is amended to read:
28 29 30 31 32	Petitions issued under this chapter may be circulated by any Maine resident who is a registered voter acting as a circulator of a petition. A circulator of a petition solicits signatures for the petition by presenting the petition to the voter, asking the voter to sign the petition and personally witnessing the voter affixing the voter's signature to the petition. The circulator of the petition must comply with the provisions of section 902.
3 4	Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §903-C, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 611, §4, is amended to read:

Page 1 - 127LR0025(02)-1

31

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 134, L.D. 176

1 2 3 4 5	1. Registration. Prior to organizing, supervising or managing the circulation of petitions for a direct initiative of legislation or a people's veto referendum, a petition organization, in addition to meeting any other requirement to transact business in this State, shall register with the Secretary of State on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State. The registration form must include the following:
6 7	A. The ballot question or title of each direct initiative of legislation or people's veto referendum for which the petition organization will receive compensation;
8 9 10	B. Contact information for the petition organization, including the name of the petition organization, street address or post office box, telephone number and e-mail address; and
11	C. The name and signature of a designated agent for the petition organization-; and
12 13 14 15 16	D. A list containing the names of all individuals hired by the petition organization to assist in circulating petitions or in organizing, supervising or managing the circulation. The list must be updated and resubmitted to the Secretary of State when the petitions are filed pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17 or 18.
17 18 19	The information contained in the registration <u>form</u> must be made available for public inspection and must be posted on the publicly accessible website of the Secretary of State.
20 21	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'
22	SUMMARY
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	This amendment replaces the bill, which imposes limitations and residency restrictions on circulators of petitions. The amendment clarifies the law regarding the solicitation of signatures for a direct initiative or a people's veto referendum. It also requires a petition organization that receives compensation for working on a signature-gathering effort to submit to the Secretary of State as part of the organization's registration process a list containing the names of those hired by the organization, which must be updated when the petitions are ultimately filed with the Secretary of State.
30	FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

Page 2 - 127LR0025(02)-1

(See attached)



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 176

LR 25(02)

An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-98)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Secretary of State associated with this legislation can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.