

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Date: 4/24/15

(Filing No. H-98)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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

**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

**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

**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,

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

**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §903-A, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 92, §1, is amended to read:

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.

**Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §903-C, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 611, §4, is amended to read:

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.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

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.

**(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.