

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/6/17 Majority

L.D. 53  
(Filing No. H-436)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
128TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 39, L.D. 53, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Prohibit Payment Per Signature for Citizen Petition Drives"

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

'An Act To Prohibit Payment per Signature on Petitions for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referendums'

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

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRS §904-C is enacted to read:

§904-C. Payment per signature; prohibition

1. Findings. The Legislature finds that the practice of paying persons who collect signatures for initiative or referendum petitions based on the number of signatures the persons collect has corrupted the signature collecting process and is eroding public confidence in the petition process. The Legislature finds that the large numbers of invalidated signatures that have been collected during petition efforts by persons who were paid for the number of signatures collected provides strong evidence that the practice of paying for signatures collected has corrupted the signature gathering process. The Legislature further finds that the State has a vital interest in ensuring that the signature gathering process is not corrupted by practices that erode public confidence in the petition process.

2. Payment per signature. A circulator of an initiative or a referendum petition, a direct initiative or people's veto organization registered in accordance with section 903-C or a person who causes the circulation of an initiative or referendum petition may not receive payment for the collection of signatures if that payment is based on the number of signatures collected. This section does not prohibit a circulator of an initiative or a referendum petition, a direct initiative or people's veto organization registered in

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2018

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 39, L.D. 53

1 accordance with section 903-C or a person who causes the circulation of an initiative or  
2 referendum petition from being paid a salary or fee that is not based on the number of  
3 signatures collected.'

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This amendment replaces the resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
6 of Maine. The amendment instead amends the statutes governing ballot questions to  
7 prohibit the circulator of an initiative or referendum petition or a petition organization  
8 from receiving payment for the collection of signatures based on the number of signatures  
9 collected. The amendment clarifies that a salary or fee for the collection of signatures is  
10 not prohibited if it is not based on the number of signatures collected.