

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 906

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H.P. 634

House of Representatives, March 7, 2017

### An Act Regarding the Collection of Signatures for a Direct Initiative

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.  
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, SIROCKI of Scarborough, STROM of  
Pittsfield, TURNER of Burlington, WINSOR of Norway, Senators: HAMPER of Oxford,  
LANGLEY of Hancock, MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §901-A**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 611, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **§901-A. Petition requirements for direct initiatives of legislation**

5 The following provisions apply to direct initiatives of legislation under the  
6 Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

7 **1. Full text of direct initiative and fiscal impact statement and opportunity to**  
8 **read full text of direct initiative, direct initiative summary and fiscal impact**  
9 **statement.** A person circulating a petition must give a voter that voter's own printed  
10 paper copy of the full text of the direct initiative and the fiscal impact statement and  
11 provide the voter the opportunity to read the full text of the direct initiative and the  
12 proposed direct initiative summary and fiscal impact statement required by section 901  
13 prior to that voter signing the petition. The summary presented to the voter must be as it  
14 appears on a publicly accessible website established by the Secretary of State.

15 **2. Required statements; placement of information.** On each page of a petition  
16 that contains space intended for voter signatures, the Secretary of State shall include a  
17 space at the top right or left corner of each such page to be submitted to the voters, which  
18 must be filled in with the name of the circulator collecting signatures on that petition and  
19 a unique identifying number, and include the fiscal impact of the initiative as described in  
20 Title 1, section 353 directly below the following statement at the top of the petition in a  
21 type size of no less than 16 points:

22 "Freedom of Citizen Information: Before a registered voter signs any initiative  
23 petition, signature gatherers must offer the voter the opportunity to read the full text  
24 of the proposed initiative, proposed initiative summary and fiscal impact statement  
25 prepared by the Secretary of State."

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill requires a person circulating a petition for a direct initiative of legislation to  
28 give a voter that voter's own printed paper copy of the full text of the direct initiative and  
29 the fiscal impact statement and provide the voter the opportunity to read the full text of  
30 the direct initiative prior to that voter signing the petition. Current law also requires a  
31 person circulating a petition for a direct initiative of legislation to provide the voter the  
32 opportunity to read the proposed direct initiative summary and fiscal impact statement.