

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1339

H.P. 933

House of Representatives, April 6, 2017

**An Act To Amend the Procedure To Determine the Wording of
Ballot Questions for Citizen Initiatives**

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 SUTTON of Warren.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, CEBRA of Naples, FREDETTE of
Newport, HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, LOCKMAN of Amherst, PARRY of Arundel,
STETKIS of Canaan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §905-A**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 234, §6, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§905-A. Public comment on initiative questions**

5 ~~No later than 10 business days after the Legislature adjourns sine die, the~~ The
6 Secretary of State shall give public notice of a proposed ballot question for any initiative
7 that will be submitted to the voters at the next statewide election or special election by
8 posting all proposed ballot questions on the Secretary of State's publicly accessible
9 website. The Secretary of State may also publish notice for one day in newspapers
10 having general circulation in the State. After giving public notice of a proposed ballot
11 question in accordance with this section, the Secretary of State shall provide a 30-day
12 public comment period for the purpose of receiving comments on the content and form of
13 proposed questions to be placed on the ballot for any pending initiatives. No later than 10
14 days after receiving public comments in accordance with this section and after review of
15 those comments, the Secretary of State shall write the ballot question for any pending
16 initiative. The Secretary of State shall submit the ballot question for a pending initiative
17 to the Legislative Council established in Title 3, section 161 for the council's review and
18 approval. If the Legislative Council does not approve the ballot question, the Secretary of
19 State shall revise the question and submit the revised question to the council for its
20 review and approval.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Secretary of State to submit the ballot question for a pending
23 citizen initiative of legislation to the Legislative Council for the council's review and
24 approval. If the council does not approve the ballot question, the Secretary of State is
25 required to revise the question and submit the revised question to the council for its
26 review and approval.