

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 233

H.P. 154

House of Representatives, January 20, 2023

**An Act to Ensure Efficiency in Petitions Reviewed by the Secretary
of State by Clarifying Deadlines Related to Those Petitions**

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, MALON of
Biddeford, RIELLY of Westbrook, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DAUGHTRY of
Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §905, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 277, §6, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Secretary of State.** The Secretary of State shall review all petitions filed in the
5 Department of the Secretary of State for a people's veto referendum under the Constitution
6 of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17, or for a direct initiative under the Constitution
7 of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

8 The Secretary of State shall determine the validity of the petition and issue a written
9 decision stating the reasons for the decision within 30 business days from the ~~date of~~
10 deadline for filing of a written petition in the Department of the Secretary of State under
11 the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17 or 18.

12 The Secretary of State may invalidate a petition if the Secretary of State is unable to verify
13 the notarization of that petition.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill requires the Secretary of State to determine the validity of certain petitions
16 within 30 business days of constitutionally specified applicable deadlines.