

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 523

S. P. 415

In Senate, Feb. 12, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Murchie of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT to Regulate the Preparation and Distribution of
Petitions for the People's Veto and Direct Initiative as
Authorized by Article Thirty-One of the Constitution.

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

Section 1. Upon request of any voter of the state, made in writing within ten days after the adjournment of any session of the legislature, the secretary of state shall forthwith cause to be printed and delivered to such voter, at the expense of the state, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the use of the people's veto by referendum, as provided in part three of article four of the constitution as amended by article thirty-one, on such act or acts or part or parts of any act or acts as may be designated in such written request.

Sec. 2. Upon request of any voter of the state, made in writing at any time, the secretary of state shall forthwith cause to be printed and delivered to such voter, at the expense of the state, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the use of the direct initiative, as provided in part three of article four of the constitution as amended by article thirty-one, for such act as may be designated in such written request.

Sec. 3. All petitions prepared in accordance with the pro-

visions of this act shall have the clauses providing for the verification and the certification required by the terms of section twenty of article thirty-one of the constitution so worded and phrased that a single verification may be sufficient for any number of separate petitions so fastened together as to constitute a single petition and so that separate single certifications by one or more clerks of cities, towns or plantations may in the same manner be sufficient to cover the certification of all names of voters in such cities, towns or plantations appearing on any one or more of the separate single petitions so fastened together.

Sec. 4. Upon each separate petition, provided in accordance with the provisions of this act there shall be printed in bold face type full instructions, to be prepared by the attorney general, directing the voters, the persons circulating the petitions, and the clerks of the cities, towns and plantations who may be required to certify signatures, as to the constitutional requirements of signing, circulating, verifying and certifying the same. Such instructions shall call particular attention to all particular irregularities which prior to the date of the printing of such petitions have been held to invalidate either single signatures or complete petitions.

Sec. 5. Whenever the governor shall deem that a hearing is necessary for the purpose of determining the validity of any petition filed for the purpose of securing the people's veto in accordance with the provisions of article thirty-one aforesaid such hearing shall be held in the chamber of the Senate on a day to be fixed by the governor not longer than one hundred days after the adjournment of the legislature passing the act against which such veto is sought to be invoked. Whenever such a hearing shall be deemed necessary in connection with any petition filed for the purpose of invoking the direct initiative such hearing shall be held in the same place and manner not later than fifteen days after the date when such petitions are filed with the secretary of state.