

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINTH REVISION

REVISED STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1954

FIRST ANNOTATED REVISION

Effective December 31, 1954

IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOLUME 1



THE MICHIE COMPANY
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Chapter 8.

Petitions for People's Veto and Direct Initiative.

Sec. 1. Petitions for veto by referendum.—Upon request of any voter of the state, made in writing within 10 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 his expense, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the people's veto by referendum, as provided in Part Third of Article IV of the constitution, on such act or acts or part or parts of any act or acts as may be designated in such written request. (R. S. c. 7, § 1. 1953, c. 365, § 20.)

Sec. 2. Petitions for direct initiative.—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 his expense, an adequate supply of petitions prepared for the use of the voters of the state for invoking the direct initiative, as provided in Part Third of Article IV of the constitution for such act as may be designated in such written request. (R. S. c. 7, § 2. 1953, c. 365, § 21.)

Sec. 3. Verification and certification of petitions.—All petitions prepared in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, shall have the clauses providing for the verification and the certification required by the terms of section 20 of Article IV, Part Third of the constitution so worded and phrased that a single verification may be sufficient for any number of separate petitions when fastened together so 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. (R. S. c. 7, § 3.)

Sec. 4. Instructions to be printed on each petition.—Upon each separate petition, provided in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, 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 and statutory requirements for signing, circulating, verifying and certifying the same. Such instructions shall call particular attention to all irregularities which prior to the date of the printing of such petitions have been held to invalidate either single signatures or complete petitions. (R. S. c. 7, § 4.)

Sec. 5. Hearing on validity of petitions.—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 Part Third of Article IV of the constitution, such hearing shall be held in the chamber of the senate on a day to be fixed by the governor not longer than 100 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 15 days after the date when such petitions are filed with the secretary of state. (R. S. c. 7, § 5.)

Sec. 6. Expenditures regulated.—It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation to make any expenditure or incur any liability either for printing, publication, postage, clerk hire, news-

paper advertising, renting of halls or other places, soliciting agents, transporting of voters, or any other act or thing calculated to induce or procure any person or persons to vote either for or against any question submitted to the vote of the people under the provisions of Part Third of Article IV of the constitution unless on the dates hereinafter set forth next ensuing after the making of any such expenditure or incurring of any such liability such person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation shall report the same to the secretary of state setting forth in detail the nature and amount of the expenditure made or liability incurred with a proper designation of the question on behalf of which the expenditure was made or liability incurred. For such expenditures as are made and such liabilities as are incurred, during the period prior to the 30 days next preceding any such election, such report shall be made on the 1st day of each month next after such expenditure is made or such liability is incurred, and thereafter such a report shall be made each week, such weekly reports to be made so as to reach the office of the secretary of state not later than 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday in each week. The last report, to be made in accordance with this provision, which shall reach the office of the secretary of state not later than 10 o'clock in the forenoon on the Wednesday next preceding any such election, shall include in addition to such expenditures as have been made and such liabilities as have been incurred up to the time of the making of such report, a statement of such sum or sums, if any, as such person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation proposes to make or incur thereafter in connection with such campaign.

The secretary of state shall, 30 days before the date of any such election, publish in all the daily and weekly papers in the state a statement setting forth the total expenditures made in accordance with the information filed with him under the terms of the foregoing paragraph by any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation giving for each question a list of the parties making such expenditures and the amount thereof, which list shall for each question be arranged alphabetically. He shall revise and republish such figures in each of such papers 15 days as nearly as may be before such election and again in the daily papers of the state on the Friday next preceding any such election.

Any person, firm, association, committee, organization or corporation which shall expend any money or incur any liability in connection with any such question, in excess of \$5, without reporting it as above provided or who subsequent to the filing of such last report shall expend for any purpose aforesaid more than the amount or amounts set forth in such pre-election report, shall be punished by fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months. (R. S. c. 7, § 6.)