MAINE STATE LAW & LEGISLATIVE **REFERENCE LIBRARY**

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Citizen-initiated legislation in Maine

Apply for a petition

To start the process of changing state law, a voter must submit a written application to the Maine Secretary of State which includes the name, addresses, and signatures of 5 additional voters, the text of the proposed legislation, and a summary of its purpose. See Maine Const. Art. IV, Pt. 3, <u>§18(1), §20, and 21-A MRS §901</u>.

😢 Collect voter signatures

If approved by the Secretary of State, the petition is circulated to collect signatures. There are many requirements, including a minimum amount of signatures. See Maine Const. Art. IV, Pt. 3, <u>§18(2), §20, and 21-A</u> MRS §§901-A to 904-B.

Validity of the petition.

Within 30 days of receiving a petition, the Secretary of State will issue a decision on the petition's validity. Appeals of this decision must be filed in Maine Superior Court. See Maine Const. Art. IV, Pt. 3, <u>§18(2), §20, and 21-A MRS</u> <u>§905.</u>



🐻 Referendum.

Presented to Legislature.

Initiated bills are assigned a bill number and go through the legislative process. The Legislature may enact the bill, take no action on the bill, or it may propose a competing measure to be placed on the ballot. See <u>Maine Const.</u> <u>Art. IV, Pt. 3, §18(2) and §20.</u>

Enactment.

If the Legislature does not enact the citizen-initiated bill, it is sent to referendum. The Secretary of State writes ballot questions in accordance with 21-A MRS §906. See also Maine <u>Const. Art. IV, Pt. 3, §18(2), (3)</u> <u>and §20</u>.

If the measure is approved by a majority of the votes, the law takes effect 30 days after the Governor proclaims the result *unless* the law requires certain expenditures. See <u>Maine Const. Art. IV, Pt.</u> <u>3, §19 and §20</u>.

GO TO THE SOURCE

Maine State Constitution <u>Article IV, Part 3, §§18, 19, and 20</u>

Maine Statutes Title 21-A, Chapter 11

Maine Secretary of State **Citizen Initiative Application Packet**

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