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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 225, L.D. 277, Bill, “An Act To Make Disputed Ballots in State Elections Public”

Amend the bill in section 1 in §739 by striking out all of the first paragraph (page 1, lines 5 to 12 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'On request, a municipal clerk or the Secretary of State, or both, shall produce any ballots or incoming voting lists in their custody before the Governor, either branch of the Legislature, any legislative committee or a court of competent jurisdiction. If there is an unresolved disputed ballot for an election to the State House of Representatives or the State Senate arising from a recount conducted pursuant to section 737-A, the Secretary of State shall make a copy of that ballot available for inspection by the public. A copy of a ballot that is made available for public inspection pursuant to this section must be made available in a manner that preserves the voter's anonymity. Copies of disputed ballots made available for public inspection under this section must be retained by the Secretary of State for a period of 2 years after the outcome of the election is finally determined.'

SUMMARY

This amendment specifies that the Secretary of State is required to make available for public inspection only copies of unresolved disputed ballots rather than the actual ballots. It also limits this public inspection of copies of disputed ballots to elections for the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. The amendment also specifies that the Secretary of State must retain these copies for 2 years.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT