

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 3	Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §905, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 277, §6, is further amended to read:
4 5 6 7	1. Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall review all petitions filed in the Department of the Secretary of State for a people's veto referendum under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17, or for a direct initiative under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.
8 9 10 11	The Secretary of State shall determine the validity of the petition and issue a written decision stating the reasons for the decision within 30 <u>business</u> days from the <u>date of deadline for filing of a written petition in the Department of the Secretary of State under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17 or 18.</u>
12 13	The Secretary of State may invalidate a petition if the Secretary of State is unable to verify the notarization of that petition.
14	SUMMARY
15 16	This bill requires the Secretary of State to determine the validity of certain petitions within 30 business days of constitutionally specified applicable deadlines.