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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 154, L.D. 233, “An Act to Ensure Efficiency in Petitions Reviewed by the Secretary of State by Clarifying Deadlines Related to Those Petitions”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act to Ensure Efficiency in the Review of Petitions by the Secretary of State by Clarifying Deadlines Related to Those Petitions'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §905, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 277, §6, is further amended to read:

**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.

The Secretary of State shall determine the validity of the petition and issue a written decision stating the reasons for the decision within 30 business days from the date of 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, except as provided in paragraph A.

A. In an even-numbered general election year, if a written petition is filed in the Department of the Secretary of State under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 17 or 18 within the 30 calendar days preceding the general election or within the 30 calendar days following the general election, the Secretary of State shall determine the validity of the petition and issue a written decision stating the reasons for the decision within 30 business days after the 30th calendar day following the general election.

The Secretary of State may invalidate a petition if the Secretary of State is unable to verify the notarization of that petition.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment requires the  
5 Secretary of State to determine the validity of certain petitions within 30 business days of  
6 the date of filing of the petition, except for petitions that are filed in an even-numbered  
7 general election year within 30 days before or 30 days after the general election. In those  
8 cases, the Secretary of State is required to determine the validity within 30 business days  
9 after the 30th day following the general election.