

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 154 - L.D. 233

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

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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.