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Date: (Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 376, L.D. 879, “An Act to Place Restrictions on Candidate Speech and Clothing, Buttons and Other Items at Voting Places”

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

'An Act Regarding Restrictions on Candidate Speech and Clothing, Buttons and Other Items at Voting Places'

Amend the bill in section 1 in the first blocked paragraph in the 4th, 5th and 6th lines (page 1, lines 7 to 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "if the candidate or representative of the candidate does not state the name of the office that the candidate is seeking in that election year or" and inserting the following: 'or stating the name of the office that the candidate is seeking on the ballot for the election that day and the party or political designation of the candidate as listed on the ballot for the election that day. A candidate, or no more than one representative of a candidate, may not'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 253, §27, is further amended to read:

A. This subsection does not apply to advertising material on automobiles traveling to and from the voting place for the purposes of voting. It does not prohibit a person who is at the polls solely for the purpose of voting from wearing clothing or a campaign button when the longest dimension of the button does not exceed 3 inches that displays the name of a candidate or an advertising or campaign message.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and changes the title of the bill. It allows a candidate, or no more than one representative of a candidate, to greet a voter and to state the name of the office that the candidate is seeking in the election that

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1 day and the candidate's party or political designation, as it is listed on the ballot for the
2 election that day. A candidate, or no more than one representative of a candidate, is
3 prohibited from wearing any button, name tag, apparel or label or have or use any item or
4 sign displaying the candidate's name or the name of the office the candidate is seeking or
5 otherwise expresses support for or opposition to a party, a candidate or a ballot question.

6 The amendment also allows a person who is at the polls solely for the purpose of voting
7 to wear clothing or a campaign button that displays a candidate's name or an advertising or
8 campaign message on any public property located within 250 feet of the entrance to either
9 the voting place or the building in which the registrar's office is located. As in the bill, it
10 removes the restriction on campaign buttons not exceeding 3 inches.