



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 176

H.P. 134

House of Representatives, January 27, 2015

**An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Gathering of Signatures
for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referenda**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHORT of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHESNE of Hudson,
DUNPHY of Embden, MARTIN of Sinclair, McCABE of Skowhegan, SHAW of Standish,
STANLEY of Medway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §§903-D and 903-E** are enacted to read:

3 **§903-D. Limitations on circulators of petitions**

4 A petition organization registered pursuant to section 903-C may not employ for
5 compensation as a circulator collecting signatures on a petition for the direct initiative of
6 legislation or a people's veto referendum a person who does not comply with this section.

7 **1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the
8 following meanings.

9 A. "Circulator" means a resident of the State employed by a petition organization for
10 compensation as a circulator collecting signatures on a petition for the direct initiative
11 of legislation or a people's veto referendum.

12 B. "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election
13 Practices.

14 **2. Register.** A circulator shall register with the commission on a form provided by
15 the commission.

16 **3. Residency.** A circulator shall disclose to the commission the circulator's place of
17 residence.

18 **4. Employment history.** A circulator shall disclose to the commission whether the
19 circulator has been compensated previously for the collection of signatures and if so shall
20 identify where.

21 **5. Compensation.** A circulator shall disclose to the commission how the circulator
22 is being compensated and how much the circulator is being compensated.

23 **6. Monthly reporting.** A circulator shall disclose on a monthly basis to the
24 commission how many signatures the circulator has gathered.

25 **7. Quarterly reporting.** A circulator shall make available on a quarterly basis to the
26 commission scanned copies of the petitions the circulator is circulating.

27 **8. Identification.** While engaged in the process of collecting signatures, a circulator
28 shall wear a name badge including the circulator's first and last name, the name of the
29 petition organization employing the circulator and the circulator's city and state of
30 residence.

31 If a petition organization employing a circulator pays the circulator more than \$2,500,
32 the petition organization shall post a \$2,000 bond with the Secretary of State on the
33 circulator. The bond may be recouped after the Secretary of State has certified the
34 signatures collected by the circulator.

35 A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

