



**Summary of Changes in Maine's CI/PV Legislation
Presented to the 129th Legislature
(Updated by the LWVME Citizen Initiative Study Committee on 5/16/19)**

Committee on State and Local Governments

LD 1209: An Act to **Require Legislative Hearings** on Citizen-initiated Legislation. OTP-AM; Passed to be enacted in both houses. Amendment allows for a waiver of the public hearing if voted on by 2/3 of members of each house. [5 testimonies](#): Secretary of State (SoS)/Flynn in favor; Maine Heritage Policy Center (MHPC) in favor; one person against allowing "outsiders" to testify; none against.

Joint Standing Committee for Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

LD 252: A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to **prohibit new or increased fees or taxes** by means of a direct initiative - [18 testimonies](#): SoS Packard questioned ability of SoS to determine if an initiative involved tax increase; MHPC in favor; Maine Center for Economic Policy (MCEP) against. Reported out 3/25/19: 4/2/19 accepted ONTP/ONTP-AM / Dead.

LD 255: A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require that **signatures** on a direct initiative **come from each Congressional District** - ANT. Hearings/[7 testimonies](#) (several addressed LD 255 & LD 374 together): only one against; SoS neither for nor against; MHPC, Sportsman's Alliance, and NFIB Small Business Association all for. Divided Report 3/13; no further action.

LD 294: An act to require the **fiscal impact estimate** of a direct initiative to be included **on the ballot** - [3 testimonies](#): SoS Packard NFNA but notes extra cost and potential problems; MHPC and a legislator for. Tabled/Dead in Senate 5/14.

LD 374: A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require that signatures on a direct initiative come from **each Senatorial District**. Hearings/[7 testimonies](#) (similar to LD 255) - H:ONTP/S:ONTP/Dead.

LD 499: An Act To **Prohibit Payment per Signature** on Petitions for Direct Initiatives and People's Veto Referendums ANT. 3/27 work session & divided report—no further action; [10 testimonies](#): SoS/Flynn provides history of similar legislation in ME and elsewhere and court rulings; all others in favor, often because they think it will decrease outside money.

LD 534: An act to **make ballot questions easier to read** and understand for Maine voters. Reported out/OTP-AM (removed specific reference to 6th grade reading level but calls for more specific description of what yes/no votes mean); [10 testimonies](#): SoS/Flynn testimony opposed bill as initially drafted; LWVME Rawlings for, with amendment; most testimony in favor (including several town clerks and town clerk association).

LD 1255: A Resolution proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To **Require Referenda To Receive 60 Percent of the Vote** To Become Law - [5 testimonies](#). Divided Report: Maj ONTP, Min OTP-AM/H: Roll Call-didn't pass/S: Filed/Dead (MHPC testified in favor and one Legislator; 3 private citizens against).