

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1707

I. B. 2

In Senate, April 30, 1971

On motion of Senator Berry of Cumberland, Initiative Petitions ordered placed on file in the office of the Secretary of State and motion to reconsider lost. Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent down for concurrence and 3,000 copies ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Form of Ballots in General Elections.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 1, repealed and replaced. Subsection 1 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

1. Arrangement. The ballot must contain the name and place of residence of each nominee, arranged under the proper office designation alphabetically by surname.

A. Exception. The names of Presidential Electors must not appear on the ballot.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 2, §§ A and B, repealed and replaced. Paragraphs A and B of subsection 2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

A. Column listing. The names of all nominees for office shall as far as possible be placed in one vertical column. When the names to be printed on the ballot are over 25, another column or columns may be added in which the names of the additional nominees shall be printed. When 2 or more columns are used, the same number of names, so far as possible, shall be printed in each column. However, the names of candidates for any one office shall not be split into more than one column regardless of number. The initial letter of the given Christian name of the several candidates in each column shall be printed directly beneath each other in a vertical line

and the initial letter of the respective party designations of each nominee shall be printed directly beneath each other in a vertical line.

B. Party designation. To the right of the name of each nominee upon the ballot and properly separated from said name, and immediately to the left of the square, in line with the name of the nominee, shall be printed the designation of the party which the nominee represents. The party designations may be abbreviated.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ C, amended. Paragraph C of subsection 2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

C. Further instructions. The following instructions must be printed in bold type across both columns above the party name at the top of the ballot: ~~"IF YOU DO NOT VOTE A STRAIGHT TICKET MAKE A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF THE NOMINEE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AS TO THE NUMBER OF NOMINEES TO BE ELECTED TO EACH OFFICE. YOU MAY VOTE FOR A PERSON WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT BY WRITING IT IN THE PROPER BLANK SPACE AND MARKING A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE PROPER SQUARE AT THE RIGHT. DO NOT ERASE NAMES."~~

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ D, repealed. Paragraph D of subsection 2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 13 of chapter 225 of the public laws of 1967, is repealed as follows:

~~D. Name and residence of nominee. The ballot must contain the name, without any title, and place of residence of each nominee arranged under the proper office designation alphabetically by surname. The nominees of the same party must be grouped together on the ballot below the party designation. If there is only one nominee under a political designation, his name and the office which he seeks must be printed below that political designation.~~

~~(1) Exception. The names of presidential electors must not appear on the ballot.~~

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 21, § 922, repealed and replaced. Section 922 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 398 of the public laws of 1965, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 922. General election

A voter shall mark his ballot at a general election with a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) according to the following provisions:

1. Individual square method. He shall make a cross or a check mark in the square at the right of each nominee for whom he wishes to vote, regardless of political designation, but must follow directions as to the number of nominees to be elected to each office.

2. **Write-in vote.** If he wishes to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, he shall write the name in the blank space provided at the end of the list of nominees for the office in question. He shall then place the mark in the square at the right of it.

A. Stickers prohibited. A sticker may not be used to vote for a write-in candidate.

3. **Referendum question.** In voting on a referendum question, he shall place the mark in the square of his choice at the right of the question.

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 21, § 1069, sub-§ 4, repealed. Subsection 4 of section 1069 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 464 of the public laws of 1967, is repealed, as follows:

~~4. **Straight party ticket vote.** In partisan elections the ballot labels shall include a voting square or position whereby the voter may by one mark or punch record a straight party ticket vote for all the candidates of one party, except those offices as to which he votes for individual candidates.~~