An Act To Require Winners of State and Congressional Elections to receive a Simple Majority of the Total Vote

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

Presented by Senator DAMON of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative CLARK of Millinocket and Senators: GAGNON of Kennebec, LEMONT of York, Representative: PATRICK of Rumford.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§40-A is enacted to read:

40-A. Run-off election. "Run-off election" means a special election for an office conducted when no candidate for that office received more than 50% of the votes cast for that office in the general election. In a run-off election, the voters choose between the 2 candidates that received the most votes in the original election.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §723, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2001, c. 516, §15, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Other elections. In an election other than a primary election, the person who receives more than 50% of the votes cast for election to any office is elected to that office, except that write-in candidates must also comply with section 722-A. If the Secretary of State determines that no one received more than 50% of the votes cast for election to an office, a run-off election between the 2 candidates receiving the most votes cast in that election must be conducted within 30 days of the original election. The procedure for a run-off election must be in accordance with this chapter.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that if no one receives more than 50% of the votes in a race in a general election, a run-off election between the 2 candidates receiving the most votes in the original election must be conducted.