

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 309

Date: 5/27/25 MINORITY (Filing No. H-283)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 209, L.D. 309, "An Act to Allow a Political Party to Determine How That Party's Nominee Is Selected in a Primary Election"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §321, sub-§2, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. Determine if the party's primary election to be held for the general election following the next general election after the party's convention will be determined by a plurality of votes cast in that election or by applying a ranked-choice voting count pursuant to section 723-A. The party's determination must be incorporated into party rules.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4.

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§5-D is enacted to read:

5-D. Opt-out for party primaries. A political party may opt out from the provisions of this section for the party's primary election and cause the primary election to be determined by a plurality of votes cast in that primary election if the party's convention under section 321 votes to opt out of applying a ranked-choice voting count for the party's primary election to be held for the general election following the next general election after the party's convention and that determination is incorporated into the party's rules.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment provides that a political party during the party's state convention held between March 1st and August 1st biennially during each general election year must determine whether the party's primary election to be held for the general election following the next general election after the convention will be determined by ranked-choice voting

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 209, L.D. 309

1 or by a plurality of votes. The amendment retains the provision of the bill providing that
2 such a determination is required to be incorporated into the party's rules.

3

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

4

(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 309

LR 616(02)

An Act to Allow a Political Party to Determine How That Party's Nominee Is Selected in a Primary Election

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-283)

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Department of the Secretary of State (SoS) has indicated that General Fund appropriations of \$124,183 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$227,999 in fiscal year 2026-27 would be needed for an Elections Coordinator position, one-time public education campaign and postage costs and other related costs to process notifications from political parties. This bill provides no new funding. As this bill provides no new funding, the impact of these new unfunded costs on other programs in the SoS cannot be determined at this time.