

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 911

S.P. 401

In Senate, March 11, 2025

**An Act to Modify Ranked-choice Voting with Regard to Candidates
Who Withdraw from an Election**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 628, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Procedures.** Except as provided in subsections 3, 4 ~~and~~, 7, and 8 the following
5 procedures are used to determine the winner of an election determined by ranked-choice
6 voting. The ranked-choice voting count must proceed in rounds. In each round, the number
7 of votes for each continuing candidate must be counted. Each continuing ballot counts as
8 one vote for its highest-ranked continuing candidate for that round. Exhausted ballots are
9 not counted for any continuing candidate. The round then ends with one of the following
10 2 potential outcomes.

11 A. If there are 2 or fewer continuing candidates, the candidate with the most votes is
12 declared the winner of the election.

13 B. If there are more than 2 continuing candidates, the last-place candidate is removed
14 from consideration and a new round begins.

15 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

16 **8. Withdrawn candidate or nominee.** If a candidate or a candidate for nomination
17 in an election determined by ranked-choice voting withdraws from that election under
18 chapter 5, subchapter 3 and the name of the candidate remains on that election ballot, any
19 vote in each round for that candidate may not be counted in that round and instead the next
20 highest-ranked continuing candidate must be counted in that round. Each subsequent round
21 must be adjusted in the same manner.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill modifies the ranked-choice voting procedures. In instances where a candidate
24 or a candidate for nomination in an election determined by ranked-choice voting withdraws
25 from the election but the candidate's name remains on the election ballot, a vote for the
26 candidate that has withdrawn may not be counted in any round and instead the next highest-
27 ranked continuing candidate must be counted. Each subsequent round must be adjusted in
28 the same manner.