

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1702

H.P. 1137

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COOPER of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and
Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER of
Woolwich, JACKSON of Oxford, PARRY of Arundel, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator:
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Definition. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "candidate" has the same meaning as in section 1, subsection 5 and includes a write-in candidate, as defined in section 1, subsection 51. "Candidate" includes a candidate of any party designation and a candidate that is not enrolled in a political party.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 109, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Influence prohibited. On public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, a person may not:

A. Influence another person's decision regarding a candidate for an office that is on the ballot for the election that day, whether or not the candidate's name is on the ballot, or a question that is on the ballot for the election that day; or

B. Attempt to influence another person's decision regarding a candidate for an office that is on the ballot for the election that day, whether or not the candidate's name is on the ballot, or a question that is on the ballot for the election that day.

These limitations do not prohibit a candidate, or no more than one representative of a candidate, from greeting a voter if the candidate or representative of the candidate does not state the name of the office that the candidate is seeking in that election year or wear any button, name tag, apparel or label or have or use any item or sign displaying the candidate's name or the name of the office the candidate is seeking, engage in the conduct described in subsection 7 or otherwise express support for or opposition to a party, a candidate or a ballot question.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Other political activities prohibited by candidates; collection of signatures; funding. On public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, a candidate or a representative of a candidate may not:

A. Collect or solicit voter signatures on a petition in support of the candidate's candidacy for an office the candidate is seeking in that election year; or

B. Collect or solicit campaign contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act in support of the candidate's candidacy for an office the candidate is seeking in that election year.

SUMMARY

This bill adds new restrictions regarding signatures and campaign contributions and clarifies existing restrictions in current law applying to the political activities of a candidate for public office at a voting place on election day.

The bill prohibits a candidate or the candidate's representative, on public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, from collecting or soliciting voter signatures on a petition in support of the candidate's candidacy or campaign contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act for an office the candidate is seeking in that election year.

1 The bill also clarifies that at or within 250 feet of a voting place a person may not
2 influence or attempt to influence a voter's decision regarding a candidate for an office that
3 is on the ballot for the election, whether or not the candidate's name is on the ballot, and
4 clarifies that the provision also applies to write-in candidates running for an office that is
5 on the ballot.