

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 3

In Senate, Jan. 7, 1913.

Presented by Senator Hersey of Aroostook, and on motion by Senator Hersey laid on the table for printing, pending reference to a Committee.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN.

AN ACT to amend Section ten of Chapter six of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter one hundred thirty-five of the Public Laws of 1905, and to amend Section twenty-four of said Chapter six of the Revised Statutes, relating to the regulation and conduct of elections.

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

Section 1. Section ten of chapter six of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter one hundred thirty-five of the Public Laws of 1905, is hereby further amended by striking out in said section the words "a blank space shall be left

5 after the name of the candidates for each different office in
6 which the voter may insert the name of any person for whom
7 he desires to vote as candidate for such office," and sub-
8 stituting in their stead the following, to wit:— 'A column
9 marked "Blank Column," with the same list of officers as
10 is contained in the party columns or groups, shall be placed
11 last on said ballot, and under each office designated shall be
12 left sufficient blank space in which the voter can write the
13 name of such person as he may wish to vote for, if such
14 name is not printed on the ballot; and to the left of each
15 party column or group, in addition to the square at the head
16 of said column or group, shall be placed squares for a cross
17 (x), so that opposite each name and office on the ballot there
18 may be a square in which may be placed by the voter so
19 desiring, the cross (x) as hereinafter provided,' so that said
20 section as amended shall read as follows:—

'Sect. 10. Every general ballot, or ballot intended for the
22 use of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with
23 the provisions of this chapter, shall contain the names and
24 residences, ward residences in city elections, of all candi-
25 dates whose nominations for any office specified in the ballot
26 have been duly made and not withdrawn in accordance here-
27 with, and the office for which they have been severally nom-
28 inated and shall contain no other names except that in case
29 of electors of president and vice-president of the United
30 States, the names of the candidates for president and vice-
31 president may be added to the party or political designation.

32 The names of candidates nominated by any party shall be
33 grouped together upon the ballot. Above each group shall
34 be placed the name of the political party by which the can-
35 didates comprising such group were placed in nomination,
36 or by the political designation as described in the certificate
37 of nomination, or nomination papers under the square. If
38 only one person be nominated by any party, or under any
39 political designation, his name with the office for which he
40 is a candidate shall be printed by itself under the name of
41 such party or political designation. A column marked
42 "Blank Column," with the same list of officers as is con-
43 tained in the party columns or groups, shall be placed last
44 on said ballot, and under each office designated shall be left
45 sufficient blank space in which the voter can write the name
46 of such person as he may wish to vote for, if such name is
47 not printed on the ballot; and to the left of each party
48 column or group, in addition to the square at the head of
49 said column or group, shall be placed squares for a cross
50 (x), so that opposite each name and office on the ballot there
51 may be a square in which may be placed, by the voter so
52 desiring, the cross (x) as hereinafter provided. Whenever
53 the approval of a constitutional amendment or other ques-
54 tion is submitted to the vote of the people such question or
55 questions shall be printed upon a separate ballot. The bal-
56 lots shall be so printed as to leave a blank space, above such
57 amendment or question so as to give each voter a clear
58 opportunity to designate by a cross mark (x) therein, his

59 answers to the questions submitted and on the ballot may be
60 printed such words as will aid the voter to do this as "yes;"
61 "no," and the like. The ballot shall be not less than four
62 inches in width and not less than six inches in length. Before
63 distribution the ballots shall be so folded in marked creases
64 that their width and length when folded shall be uniform.
65 On the back and outside, when folded, shall be printed "Offi-
66 cial ballot for," followed by the designation of the polling
67 place for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the elec-
68 tion and a facsimile of the signature of the secretary of
69 state or city clerk who has caused the ballot to be printed.
70 Except as otherwise herein provided, ballots shall be printed
71 upon clean white paper without any distinguishing mark or
72 figures thereon.'

Sect. 2. Section twenty-four of chapter six of the Revised
2 Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the following
3 words: "And if the voter shall desire to vote for any person
4 or persons, whose name or names are not printed as can-
5 didates on the party group or ticket, he may erase any name
6 or names which are printed on the group or party ticket,
7 and under the name or names so erased he may fill in the
8 name or names of the candidates of his choice. Or if the
9 voter places and sticks on and over the name or names of
10 any candidate or candidates for any office or offices, a small
11 strip or strips of paper, commonly known as a sticker or
12 stickers, bearing thereon a name or names other than the
13 name or names of the candidate or candidates so erased or

14 covered up, the name or names of such candidate or candi-
15 dates so covered shall be considered to be erased from the
16 ballot, and the person or persons whose name or names shall
17 so appear on such strip or strips of paper so placed and stuck
18 on the ballot, shall be deemed to be voted for by the voter as
19 candidate or candidates for such office or offices," and substi-
20 tuting instead thereof the following:— 'And if the voter
21 shall desire to vote for any person or persons, whose name
22 or names are not printed as candidates on the party group
23 or ticket, such voter shall make a cross (x) in the square
24 or squares at the left and before the name or names of such
25 person or persons, in another party group or ticket, for
26 whom he wishes to vote.

'If a group or ticket does not contain the names of candi-
28 dates for all offices for which the voter shall desire to vote
29 he shall, in addition to the cross (x) in the square above the
30 name of the party group or ticket for which he wishes to
31 vote, vote for candidates for such offices so omitted by
32 making a cross (x) at the left and before the names of the
33 candidates for such offices in another party group or ticket,
34 or by writing the name of the person for whom he wishes
35 to vote, if not printed upon the ballot, in the "blank column,"
36 referred to in section ten, under the title of the office,' so
37 that said section as amended shall read as follows:—

'Section 24. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forth-
39 with, and without leaving the inclosed space, retire alone to
40 one of the voting shelves or compartments so provided, and

41 shall prepare his ballot by marking in the appropriate mar-
42 gin or place, a cross (x) as follows: He may place such
43 mark within the square above the name of the party group
44 or ticket, in which case he shall be deemed to have voted
45 for all the persons named in the group under such party or
46 designation. And if the voter shall desire to vote for any
47 person or persons, whose name or names are not printed as
48 candidates on the party group or ticket, such voter shall
49 make a cross (x) in the square or squares at the left and
50 before the name or names of such person or persons, in
51 another party group or ticket, for whom he wishes to vote.

‘If a group or ticket does not contain the names of candi-
53 dates for all offices for which the voter shall desire to vote,
54 he shall, in addition to the cross (x) in the square above the
55 name of the party group or ticket for which he wishes to
56 vote, vote for candidates for such offices so omitted by mak-
57 ing the cross (x) at the left and before the names of the
58 candidates for such offices in another party group or ticket,
59 or by writing the name of the person for whom he wishes
60 to vote, if not printed upon the ballot, in the “blank column,”
61 referred to in section ten, under the title of the office. Or
62 if the voter does not desire to vote for a person or persons
63 whose name or names are printed upon the party group or
64 ticket, he may erase such name or names with the effect that
65 the ballot shall not be counted for the candidate or candi-
66 dates whose names are so erased. In case of a question
67 submitted to the vote of the people he shall place such mark

68 in the appropriate margin above the answer which he desires
69 to give. Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment,
70 the voter shall fold his ballot without displaying the marks
71 thereon, in the same way it was folded when received by
72 him, and he shall keep the same so folded until he has voted.
73 He shall vote in the manner provided by law before leaving
74 the enclosed space, and shall deposit his ballot in the box
75 with the official endorsement uppermost. He shall mark
76 and deposit his ballot without undue delay and shall quit
77 said inclosed space as soon as he has voted. No such voter
78 shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf or compartment
79 already occupied by another, or to remain within said in-
80 closed space more than ten minutes, or to occupy a voting
81 shelf or compartment for more than five minutes in case all
82 of such shelves or compartments are in use, and other voters
83 are waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election
84 officer or an election clerk, whose name has been checked on
85 the list of the ballot clerks, shall be allowed to re-enter said
86 enclosed space, during said election. The presiding election
87 officer or officers, for the time being, shall secure the observ-
88 ance of the provisions of this section.'

Sect. 3. All acts and parts of acts contrary to and incon-
2 sistent herewith are hereby repealed.