

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1024

S. P. 358

In Senate, February 5, 1963

Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Reed of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

AN ACT Eliminating Straight Ticket Square from General Election Ballot.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 3-A, § 66, sub-§ II, repealed and replaced. Subsection II of section 66 of chapter 3-A of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 360 and as amended by section 4 of chapter 408, both of the public laws of 1961, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

¶II. Content. The ballot must contain the things listed in this section. It may contain no others.

A. Party designation. The party designation must be printed at the head of each column.

B. Instructions. The following instructions must be printed in bold type across both columns above the party name: "MAKE A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF THE NOMINEE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AS TO THE NUMBER OF NOMINEES TO BE ELECTED TO EACH OFFICE. YOU MAY VOTE FOR A PERSON WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT BY WRITING IT IN THE PROPER BLANK SPACE AND MARKING A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE PROPER SQUARE AT THE RIGHT. DO NOT ERASE NAMES."

1. Exception. If there is only one nominee under a political designation, the instructions need not be printed.

C. Name and residence of nominee. The ballot must contain the name and

place of residence of each nominee arranged under the proper office designation alphabetically by surname. The nominees of the same party must be grouped together on the ballot below the party designation. If there is only one nominee under a political designation, his name and the office which he seeks must be printed below that political designation.

1. Exception. The names of presidential electors must not appear on the ballot.

D. Terms of Senate candidates. When 2 United States Senators or 2 county commissioners are to be elected, the term of office sought by each nominee must be specified on the ballot.

E. Space for write-ins. At the end of the list of nominees to each office, there must be left as many blank spaces as there are vacancies to be filled, in which a voter may write the name of any person for whom he desires to vote.

F. Words of explanation. Words of explanation such as "Vote for one" or "Vote for not more than two" must be printed on the ballot to aid the voter in voting correctly.

G. Squares printed. A square must be printed at the right of the name of each nominee or write-in space, so that a voter may designate his choice clearly by a cross or a check mark in it.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 3-A, § 88, sub-§§ I - III, repealed and replaced. Subsections I, II and III of section 88 of chapter 3-A of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 360 of the public laws of 1961, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

I. Straight ticket. If he wishes to vote a straight party ticket, he may place the mark in the square at the right of each nominee of that party.

II. Split ticket. If he wishes to vote a split ticket, he may do so according to the following provision:

A. Individual square. He shall place the mark in the square at the right of each nominee under another political designation for whom he wishes to vote.

III. Write-in vote. If he wishes to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, he shall write the name in the blank space provided at the end of the list of nominees for the office in question. He shall then place the mark in the square at the right of it. A write-in vote may be cast in combination with a straight or split ticket.

A. Stickers prohibited. A sticker may not be used to vote for a write-in candidate.'