MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Eliminate the Straight Party Ballot in the Election Laws.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ A, repealed. Paragraph A of subsection
2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed as follows:

'A. Instructions and party square. The following instructions must
be printed in bold type at the head of each column: "TO VOTE A
STRAIGHT TICKET MARK A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK
(√) WITHIN THIS SQUARE." A square having 2-inch sides must be
printed below the instructions, in which a voter may place a cross or a
check mark to vote a straight ticket.

     (1) Exception. If there is only one nominee under a political desig-
     nation, the instructions and party square need not be printed.'

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ C, amended. The first sentence of para-
graph C of subsection 2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is
amended to read as follows:

'The following instructions must be printed in bold type across both columns
above the party name: "IF YOU DO NOT VOTE A STRAIGHT TICKET
MAKE A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (√) IN THE SQUARE AT
THE RIGHT OF THE NOMINEE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE.'

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 21, § 922, amended. Section 922 of Title 21 of the Revised
Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 922.—**General election.** A voter shall mark his ballot at a general election with a cross (X) or a check mark (√) according to the following provisions:

~~1. Straight ticket. If he wishes to vote a straight party ticket, he may place the mark in the party square, or in the square at the right of each nominee of that party.~~

~~A. Vote omitted. If he does not wish to vote for a nominee under the political designation whose party square he has marked, he shall draw a line through the name of that nominee.~~

~~2. Split ticket. If he wishes to vote a split ticket, he may do so in either of 2 ways:~~

~~A. Party square method. He shall first place the mark in a party square. He shall next draw a line through the name of each nominee of that party for whom he does not wish to vote. He shall then place the mark in the square at the right of each nominee under another political designation for whom he wishes to vote.~~

~~B. Individual square method. He shall place the mark in the square at the right of each nominee for whom he wishes to vote regardless of political designation, leaving all party squares blank.~~

2. **Split ticket.** If he wishes to vote a split ticket, he may do so by placing the mark in the square at the right of each nominee for whom he wishes to vote regardless of political designation.

3. **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 ~~and if he has voted by the party square method, he must draw a line through the name of the nominee for whom he does not wish to vote. 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.

4. **Referendum question.** In voting on a referendum question, he shall place the mark in the square of his choice at the right of the question.'