

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1378

H. P. 1015

House of Representatives, February 24, 1965

Received by unanimous consent. Referred to Committee on Election Laws.
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ross of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Providing for a Presidential Preference Primary.

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

R. S., T. 21, c. 14, additional. Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 14 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 14

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

§ 421. Primary

On the 2nd Tuesday in March each year when a President of the United States is to be elected, there shall be held in each town and ward a presidential preference primary for each political party. The Secretary of State shall prepare and distribute for use at such primary an official ballot for each political party and shall insert the necessary columns for balloting.

§ 422. Voting preference

Every qualified voter, eligible to vote in the election of his party, shall have opportunity at such presidential preference primary to vote his preference, on the ballot of his party, for his choice for one person to be the candidate of his political party for President of the United States and one person to be the candidate of his political party for Vice-President of the United States, either by writing the names of such persons in blank spaces to be left in said ballot for that purpose, or by marking a cross opposite the printed names of the persons of his choice, as in the case of other primaries.

§ 423. Nomination petition

The names of any persons to be voted upon for candidates for President and

Vice-President shall be printed on the ballots solely on petition of Maine voters of the same political party as the prospective candidates. The time limits for filing such petitions with the Secretary of State shall be not more than 60 days nor less than 40 days before the primary. In order to qualify the name of any person to appear on such ballot, a petition in support of his candidacy must be signed by at least 500 qualified voters of each Congressional District of the State. The petitions shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State and shall contain an affirmation under the penalties for perjury that each signer is a qualified voter in his Congressional District and is a member of the same political party as the proposed candidate. A separate petition shall be presented from each Congressional District. The decision of the Secretary of State as to the regularity of petitions shall be final.

§ 424. Notification of candidate

Whenever the Secretary of State shall receive petitions which appear to qualify the name of a candidate for President or Vice-President to be placed on such ballot, he shall forthwith notify the prospective candidate by the most expeditious means of communication and shall advise such prospective candidate that unless he withdraws his name from the ballot within 10 days after receipt of such notice, his name will appear on the ballot of his party at such presidential preference primary. If a candidate signifies his desire to withdraw his name within the above time limit, the Secretary of State shall not print his name on the ballot.

§ 425. Form of ballot

There shall be one column on the ballot of each political party for President and one column for Vice-President. The column shall be headed "Candidate of the (insert name of party) Party for President (or Vice-President) of the United States." Underneath this heading there shall appear the words: "I hereby declare my preference for candidate for the office of President (or Vice-President) of the United States to be as follows." Below these words, there shall be printed the names of candidates with the usual boxes at the right. There shall always be one blank space left for writing in the name of a candidate.

§ 426. Effect of primary

The results of the presidential preference primary shall be advisory in nature for the delegates to the national conventions.

§ 427. Counting and declaration of result

The ballots shall be counted and the returns made and canvassed as provided in this Title. The Secretary of State shall publish the result in some newspaper of general circulation in the State.

§ 428. Provisions applicable

The appropriate provisions of this Title shall apply to presidential preference primaries, unless clearly inconsistent herewith.'