

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 607

H. P. 452

House of Representatives, February 4, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gill of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

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, B, C, amended. Paragraphs A, B and C of subsection 2 of section 702 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read 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 (✓) 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 designation, the instructions and party square need not be printed.~~

~~B. Party designation. The party designation must be printed below the party square at the head of each column.~~

~~C. Further instructions. 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. 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.”

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 922, repealed and replaced. Section 922 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 398 of the public laws of 1965, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 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. Individual square method. He shall make a cross or a check mark in the square at the right of each nominee for whom he wishes to vote, regardless of political designation, but must follow directions as to the number of nominees to be elected to each office.

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

3. 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.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the straight party ballot in elections.