

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2022

H. P. 1567

House of Representatives, February 4, 1972

Reported by Mr. Ross from Committee on Election Laws in accordance with Joint Order (H. P. 1558) and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-TWO

**AN ACT to Clarify Party Enrollment Requirements for Filing Nomination
Petitions Under the Election Laws.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the present law by Title 21, section 444 of the Revised Statutes provides that all party enrollment certification under the election laws shall be done on April 1st; and

Whereas, registrars and boards of registration have taken the wording literally and have indicated that they feel obligated to wait until April 1st to make the certification; and

Whereas, this has created a chaotic condition state-wide especially in view of the fact that all nomination petitions must be filed with the Secretary of State by April 1st; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to resolve the confusion and uncertainty; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

R. S., T. 21, § 444, amended. The second sentence of section 444 of Title

21 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 89 of the public laws of 1971, is amended as follows:

He must be enrolled, on **or before** April 1st, in the party named in the petition.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.