

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
106TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" to S. P. 914, L. D. 2526,
Bill, "AN ACT to Clarify Certain Election Laws."

Amend said Bill by inserting after the enacting
clause the following:

'Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, §1, sub-§1, amended.
The last sentence of subsection 1 of section 1 of
Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out at
the beginning of the first line after the enacting
clause the underlined abbreviation and figure
"Sec. 1." and inserting in place thereof the
abbreviation and figure 'Sec. 1-A.'

Further amend said Bill by inserting after
section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1-B. R. S., T. 21, §247, additional.
Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by
adding a new section 247 to read as follows:

§247. Restrictions on persons convicted of felonies

A person who is convicted of a felony and
committed to a jail or a penal or correctional
institution may not vote at any election and may
not be a candidate for any federal, state or
county office prior to his discharge or to the
granting of parole or while serving the unexpired
portion of a sentence after parole has been
revoked.'

(Filing No. S-380)

Statement of Fact

At present, the only restriction on persons convicted of crimes is that persons confined in jails or prisons may not vote by absentee ballot, no matter what type of crime they may have been convicted of. This restriction is presently under challenge in the courts. Persons convicted of any crime who are on parole, probation, work release or furlough may vote, if otherwise qualified, under present law.

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a rational classification for treatment of convicted persons with regard to rights to vote and to be a candidate. The amendment would prevent persons convicted of felonies, the major crimes, from voting, whether in person or by absentee ballot, or from being a candidate while serving their sentences. Persons convicted of lesser crimes would not be denied the right to vote.


(Shute)
NAME:

COUNTY: Franklin