

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 197

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H. P. 167

House of Representatives, January 15, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Shute of Stockton Springs.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT Determining Position of Names of Candidates on Primary Ballots  
and General Election Ballots.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA, § 701, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, first sentence, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 30, is further amended to read:

The ballot must contain the name, without any title, and place of residence of each candidate arranged under the proper office designation ~~alphabetically with the surname first.~~ When there is more than one candidate under an office designation, the sequence of the names shall be determined by the Secretary of State or his deputy within 15 days after the filing date by a public drawing of lots.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA, § 702, sub-§ 1, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 414, § 32, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The ballot must contain the name and place of residence of each nominee, arranged under the proper office designation. When there is more than one candidate under an office designation, the sequence of the names shall be determined by the Secretary of State or his deputy within 45 days after the canvas by the Governor and Council by a public drawing of lots.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The alphabetical listing of candidates on the ballot is discriminatory against any person whose name is in the last end of the alphabet as the first named person according to statistics receives an additional 5 to 7% of the vote.