

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1044

H. P. 860

House of Representatives, March 13, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Change the Date of Primary Elections.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 361, sub-§ 1-A, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 403, is amended to read:

1-A. Time. A municipal caucus, held biennially during general election year for the purpose of electing delegates to a state convention and for any other business that may come before a state convention, shall be held ~~prior to April 1st~~ **at least 4 but not more than 7 weeks prior to the state convention for which delegates are to be elected at said caucus.**

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 401, first sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 13, is further amended to read:

Each party shall hold a state convention ~~between March 1st and August 1st~~ biennially during general election year.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 444, 2nd sentence, as amended by PL 1971, c. 579, § 1, is further amended to read:

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

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 445, sub-§ 6, is amended to read:

6. When signed. It may not be signed before ~~January~~ **May 1st** of the election year in which it is to be used.

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 445, sub-§ 9, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 17, is further amended to read:

9. **When filed.** It must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by or before 9 p.m. on ~~April 1st~~ **July 15th** of the election year in which it is to be used.

Sec. 6. 21 MRSA § 445, sub-§ 11, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 4, is further amended to read:

11. **Petition challenged.** Anyone who desires to challenge the validity of a candidate's primary petition as filed with the Secretary of State must notify the Secretary of State in writing setting forth his reasons within 7 days after ~~April 1st~~ **July 15th** prior to the primary election.

Sec. 7. 21 MRSA § 448, as amended by PL 1973, c. 133, is further amended to read:

§ 448. Time of election

The primary election shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday ~~of June~~ **after the first Monday of September** of each general election year.

Sec. 8. 21 MRSA § 492, sub-§ 6, is amended to read:

6. **When signed.** It may not be signed before ~~January~~ **May 1st** of the election year in which it is to be used.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act would shorten the primary and general election campaigns in Maine by changing the dates for gathering and filing petitions and for holding the primary election.