

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-686)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 971, L.D. 1212, Bill, "AN ACT to Create a Presidential and Vice-presidential Primary Election."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'21 MRSA c. 18 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 18
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

§501. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide Maine citizens with an opportunity to hear presidential and vice-presidential candidates address themselves directly to the problems of Maine and to allow Maine citizens to express their preference in a primary election for a presidential and vice-presidential candidate. Such a primary election would be scheduled only if at least 2 other New England states schedule similar elections so that a regional election could be held. Political debate on the problems of the region would be encouraged.

§502. Scheduling by Secretary of State

If, on or before January 15, 1976, at least 2 of the following states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island

and Vermont, have enacted laws to establish presidential pr:
elections for the same date in 1976, the Secretary of State
shall, by proclamation, order a presidential primary election
to be held in this State, pursuant to this chapter, on the same
date that such (two) or more states have scheduled such an election.

§503. Presidential primary ballot

If the Secretary of State orders a presidential primary
election pursuant to section 502, he shall cause to be placed
on the official ballot for use of presidential primaries, under
separate headings for each party:

1. Names proposed by primary petitions. The names of
any candidates for nomination for President of the United
States and Vice President of the United States whose names
are proposed therefor by primary petitions prepared and
furnished by the Secretary of State and signed in aggregate
by a number of voters equal to at least 1% but not more than
2% of the total vote cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial
election or equal to at least 10% of the total vote for
Governor cast at the last gubernatorial election by the
party of the candidate, whichever is less.

2. Write-in space. The ballot shall contain a blank space in which the voter may, if he or she does not vote for any of the candidates whose names are printed on the ballot, insert the name of any person of his or her choice as a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States.

§504. Primary results

The results of any primary election indicating voters' preference for a candidate for President or Vice President shall only be advisory to Maine delegates to the national convention of a political party.

§505. Rules and procedures

Unless specifically stated otherwise in this chapter, the presidential primary shall be conducted in the same manner and according to the same rules and procedures as the primary elections for federal, state and county offices established by this Title.

Fiscal Note

amendment
It is expected that passage of this / would require an expenditure by the State of \$50,000 every 4 years.'

Statement of Fact

The amendment would require that a presidential primary election be held in this State only if at least 2 other New England states schedule a similar election on a mutual date. The amendment would give the Secretary of State the authority to schedule such an election as soon as 2 other states have scheduled elections. There would in effect be a regional primary. Several New England states are now discussing and ing toward such a regional primary.

The names of candidates would be placed on the ballot only by primary petitions. There is a provision for write-in votes.

The results of any such election would be advisory only and not binding on delegates to a national convention.

Filed by Mrs. Boudreau of Portland.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
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