

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1424**

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H. P. 1132

House of Representatives, March 24, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Curran of South Portland.

Cosponsors: Mr. Hobbins of Saco, Mr. Martin of Saint Agatha.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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### AN ACT to Provide for Specimen Ballots Written in the French Language.

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

21 MRSA § 704, sub-§ 6 is enacted to read:

6. Specimen ballots printed in the French language. Upon request by the clerk of a municipality, the Secretary of State shall furnish that municipality with specimen ballots printed in the French language. The number of specimen ballots printed in the French language to be furnished that municipality, when added to the number of specimen ballots in the English language to be furnished that municipality, shall not be greater than the total number of specimen ballots to be furnished that municipality if specimen ballots printed in the French language had not been requested. All statutory provisions applying to specimen ballots printed in the English language shall apply to specimen ballots printed in the French language.

#### FISCAL NOTE

Assuming that 15% of the total number of specimen ballots printed are printed in the French language, it is estimated that this bill would result in an additional increase of \$1,500 for each general election. This estimate does not take into account the printing savings caused by 15% fewer specimen ballots in the English language.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill authorizes the use of specimen ballots printed in the French language. Persons whose primary language is French should not be handicapped in the electoral process by being limited to viewing specimen ballots printed only in the English language.