

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 335

H. P. 259

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jalbert of Lewiston.

Cosponsor: Mr. Joyce of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Provide for Columnar Arrangement of the General Election
Ballot by Party.**

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 702, sub-§ 1, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 414, § 32, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. **Arrangement.** The ballot shall be arranged in as many columns as there are different parties. There shall be one or more columns for non-party candidates.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ A, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 414, § 33, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 160, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

B. Party designation. The party designation must be printed above the column for that party. There shall be printed above each column of those nominees not nominated by a party the words "Nonparty Candidates."

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ C, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 160, § 5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. Further instructions. The following instructions must be printed in bold type across both columns above the party name: "MAKE A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE SQUARE AT THE LEFT OF THE NOMINEE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE. FOLLOW

DIRECTIONS AS TO THE NUMBER OF NOMINEES TO BE ELECTED TO EACH OFFICE. YOU MAY VOTE FOR A PERSON WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT BY WRITING IT IN THE PROPER BLANK SPACE AND MARKING A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN THE PROPER SQUARE AT THE LEFT. DO NOT ERASE NAMES. NAMES WRITTEN IN OR ON STICKERS MUST SHOW THE MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE OF EACH WRITE-IN CANDIDATE."

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 702, sub-§ 2, ¶ D-1 is enacted to read:

D-1. Name and residence of nominee. The ballot shall contain the name and place of residence of each nominee arranged under the proper office designation alphabetically by surname. The nominees of the same party shall be grouped together on the ballot below the party designation. Non-party candidates must be grouped together in one or more columns together on the ballot below the designation "Nonparty Candidates." If there is only one nominee under a political designation, his name and the office which he seeks must be printed below that political designation.

(1) Exception. The names of presidential electors shall not appear on the ballot.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to provide for the columnar arrangement of general election ballots by party designation.