

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 816

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H. P. 619

House of Representatives, March 8, 1977

On Motion of Mrs. Boudreau of Portland referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT** Relating to the Marking of Ballots at a Primary or  
General Election.

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

**Sec. 1.** 21 MRSA § 701, sub-§ 2, ¶ A, 1st and 3rd sentences, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 160, § 1, are further amended to read:

The following instructions must be printed in bold type at the top of the ballot: "MAKE A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN **OR FILL IN COMPLETELY (■)** THE SQUARE AT THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE.

YOU MAY VOTE FOR A PERSON WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT BY WRITING IT OR PASTING A STICKER WITH HIS NAME ON IT IN THE PROPER BLANK SPACE, AND MARKING A CROSS (X) OR A CHECK MARK (✓) IN **OR COMPLETELY FILLING IN (■)** THE PROPER SQUARE AT THE LEFT.

**Sec. 2.** 21 MRSA § 701, sub-§ 2, ¶ F, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 160, § 2, is further amended to read:

**F. Squares printed.** A square must be printed at the left and close to the name of each candidate or write-in space, so that a voter may designate his choice clearly by a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) or by **completely filling in the square (■)**.

**Sec. 3.** 21 MRSA § 921, 1st ¶ is amended to read:

A voter shall mark his ballot at a primary election with a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) or by completely filling in the square (■) according to the following provisions.

**Sec. 4.** 21 MRSA § 922, 1st ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1971, Initiated Bill, § 5, is amended to read:

A voter shall mark his ballot at a general election with a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) or by completely filling in the square (■) according to the following provisions:

**Sec. 5.** 21 MRSA § 922, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 40, is further amended to read:

1. **Individual square method.** He shall ~~make a cross or a check mark~~ place the mark in the square at the left and close to each nominee for whom he wishes to vote, regardless of political designation, but must follow directions as to the number of nominees to be elected to each office.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow a voter at a primary or general election to mark his ballot with a cross or a check mark or by completely filling in the square.