

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 870

H. P. 688

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT** Relating to Nomination Petitions.

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

**Sec. 1.** 21 MRSA § 441, sub-§ 2, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 15, is further amended to read:

A person may file as a candidate for any federal, state or county office either by primary election or nomination petition, ~~but not~~ or by both.

**Sec. 2.** 21 MRSA § 445, sub-§ 5, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 16, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. Number of signatures required. It shall be signed by a number of voters as follows:

- A. For a presidential candidate, 750 voters in the electoral division;
- B. For a gubernatorial candidate, 750 voters in the electoral division;
- C. For a candidate for United States Senate, 750 voters in the electoral division;
- D. For a candidate for United States Representative, 500 voters in the electoral division;
- E. For a candidate for county office, 150 voters in the electoral division;
- F. For a candidate for State Senator, 100 voters in the electoral division;

G. For a candidate for State Representative, 25 voters in the electoral division; and

H. For all other candidates, a number of voters equal to at least 1% but not more than 2% of the total votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election in the electoral division which is to make the nomination.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 445, sub-§ 7, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 4, is further amended to read:

7. Signatures not restricted. A voter may sign ~~only~~ as many primary petitions and nomination petitions under section 492 for each office as ~~there are vacancies to be filled he chooses.~~

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 491, 2nd sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 752, § 3, and as amended by PL 1975, c. 770, § 88, is amended to read:

A person may file as a candidate for any federal, state or county office either by primary election or nomination petition, ~~but not~~ or by both.

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 492, sub-§ 3, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 761, § 19, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. How signed. It must be signed personally by the voter in a manner reasonably sufficient to satisfy the registrar of each municipality concerned that the person signing the petition is, in fact, listed on the voting list of the municipality and resides in the electoral division for which nomination is sought. Ditto marks are permitted.

Sec. 6. 21 MRSA § 492, sub-§ 7, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 5, is further amended to read:

7. Signatures not restricted. A voter may sign ~~only~~ as many nomination petitions and primary petitions under section 445 for each office as ~~there are vacancies to be filled he chooses.~~

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make the laws governing nomination petitions less restrictive. The particular changes in the law would be as follows:

Sections 1 and 4 permit a person to file as a candidate by both primary election and nomination petition.

Section 2. establishes the number of voter signatures which will be necessary for various political offices. The largest number of signatures will be required for the highest office and the number will decrease according to the office involved.

Sections 3 and 6 remove the restriction on the number of nomination and primary petitions which a voter may sign.

Section 5 states that the manner of signing a petition should be that which is reasonably sufficient to assure the registrar that the signer is on the voting list.