

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1246

H. P. 1028

House of Representatives, March 24, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bustin of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Change the Deadline for Change in Party Enrollment in Order to Qualify for Voting in a Primary Election.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 134, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 340, § 1, is further amended to read:

2. **Party designation removed from voting list.** On receipt of the application, the registrar shall remove the party designation beside the name of the applicant on the voting list and shall make a notation on the voting list that the applicant is ineligible to vote at a caucus or primary election, or to file a petition as a candidate for nomination by primary election, for a period of ~~3 months~~ 14 days. At the expiration of ~~3 months~~ 14 days from the date of receipt of the application by the registrar, the registrar shall enroll the applicant in the party requested.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 134, sub-§ 3, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 340, § 2, is further amended to read:

3. **Restrictions during change of enrollment.** A voter may not vote at a caucus or primary election or file a petition as a candidate for nomination by primary election within ~~3 months~~ 14 days after filing an application to change his enrollment, except as provided in subsection 4.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 135, sub-§ 1, as amended by PL 1971, c. 3, § 3, is further amended to read:

1. **Limitation.** A voter may not file a request to withdraw his enrollment for ~~3 months~~ 14 days after the date on which he enrolled.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill permits a registered voter who has switched from one party to another to vote at a primary election or municipal caucus after 14 days of the change in registration, instead of the 90-day period now in the statutes.