

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1724

S. P. 475

In Senate, April 28, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Danton of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Amending the Nomination by Petition Election Process.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 492, sub-§ 9, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 21, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 492, sub-§ 10, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 520, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

10. **Filing.** Persons seeking nomination by petition shall file petitions in the office of the Secretary of State prior to 5 p.m. on the date of the primary election.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to remove the requirement of a declaration of candidacy by April 1st on the part of any person seeking office by means of the nomination by petition process. The ability of persons to use this process to seek offices in areas where the primary election process does not offer a sufficient number of candidates or choices for the Maine voter is vital. The only bar to seeking office by this method should be the inability to acquire the signatures of a sufficient number of interested Maine citizens by primary day.