

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 408

S. P. 178

In Senate, February 8, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Silverman of Washington.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Provide for Jury List Selection from Sources other than Voting Lists.

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA § 1254, first 2 ¶¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1967, c. 544, § 35, and c. 336, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

The jury commissioners of each county shall prepare annually on or before the first day of June as complete a list as possible of those persons in their respective county eligible to serve on a jury. In compiling this list, the jury commissioners shall consult appropriate municipal directories, telephone directories, lists of motor vehicle registrations and lists of licensed operators of motor vehicles, and voter registration lists, giving equal emphasis to each type of directory or list. Upon request of the jury commissioners of its county, the registrar of voters, the board of registration of the several municipalities or plantations or the registration commissioner of each Indian voting district shall furnish those commissioners with as complete a list as practicable of the voters certified in that municipality, plantation or voting district. This list shall be furnished to the jury commissioners at no charge.

The jury commissioners shall, in July of each year, from the list prepared, publicly select at random, using any given multiple that will give a fair and just distribution according to population, the names of a sufficient number of persons

to be kept on a list which shall be considered a jury pool. A copy of the list shall be deposited with the clerk of courts of the several counties and shall, during all business hours, be open to public inspection.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1980.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides that jury commissioners shall draw jury lists to include as complete a list as practicable to all those persons eligible for jury duty. Presently, jury lists are drawn from voter registration lists, a practice which discourages voter registration. This bill will remove this obstacle to increase voter registration.