

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 694

S. P. 245

In Senate, February 22, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. 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 Permit Independents to Vote in Party Primaries.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 26 is amended to read:

26. **Primary election.** "Primary election" means the regular election by the voters of a particular party, or by those unenrolled voters who select the ballot of that particular party, for the election of nominees for the general election.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 449, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 425, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 449. **Primary as separate election**

1. **Separate election.** A primary election is deemed to be a separate election for each party which takes part in it. This includes the duties of public officials in notifying the election, providing forms and ballots, keeping records and any other matter necessary to effect the purpose of a primary election. A primary election shall be conducted as to each party as nearly as practicable the same as the general election.

2. **Independent voting in primary elections.** Unenrolled voters may vote in a primary election by selecting a ballot from no more than one of the parties taking part in the election.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill permits unenrolled voters to vote in primary elections by choosing the ballot of one party involved. It does not permit voters enrolled in one party to select the ballot of another party.