

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 900

S. P. 299

In Senate, March 2, 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 Extend the Deadline for Filing a Declaration of Candidacy.

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

21 MRSA § 493, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 425, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 493. Declaration of candidacy

A signed declaration of candidacy shall be filed according to the following provisions.

1. Declaration of candidacy. A person who seeks nomination by petition shall file a signed declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State by or before 5 p.m. on April 1st of the election year in which that person will be a candidate. The person filing a declaration of candidacy shall include within the declaration the title of the office that person intends to seek. Failure to file the declaration prior to 5 p.m. on April 1st shall result in that person's ineligibility to be a candidate for election to that office in that calendar year. That person shall also file a nomination petition, as provided in section 494.

2. Deadline for filing. If any office is not contested, the deadline for filing a signed declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State shall be 5 p.m. on May 1st of the election year in which that person will be a candidate. The person filing

a declaration of candidacy shall include within the declaration the title of the office that person intends to seek. Failure to file the declaration prior to 5 p.m. on May 1st shall result in that person's ineligibility to be a candidate for election to that office in that calendar year. That person shall also file a nomination petition, as provided in section 494.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The bill provides an opportunity for candidates seeking nomination by petition to file a declaration of candidacy after the current deadline of 5 p.m. on April 1st. The purpose is to provide greater opportunity for public participation in elections by encouraging challenged rather than uncontested elections.