

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 470

6
7 H.P. 387

House of Representatives, February 1, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Election Laws, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Carter of Winslow.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT Relating to Nomination Petitions
18 for Municipal Office.
19

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

22 30 MRSA §2061, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1979, c.
23 150, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

24 3. Nomination papers. The nomination for any
25 office shall be made by nomination papers signed by
26 the following number of voters based on the popu-
27 lation of the town according to the last Decennial
28 Census of the United States: Not less than 3 nor more
29 than 10 in towns of 200 or less population; not less
30 than 10 nor more than 25 in towns of 201 to 500; and
31 not less than 25 nor more than ~~75~~ 100 in towns of ~~501~~
32 ~~to 4,000~~ more than 500; ~~not less than 75 nor more~~
33 ~~than 125 in towns of 4,001 to 10,000; and not less~~

1 than 100 nor more than 150 in towns of more than
2 10,000. Nomination papers shall be made available by
3 the municipal clerk to prospective candidates during
4 the 40 days prior to the final date of filing, and
5 before issuance, the town clerk may complete each
6 sheet by filling in the name of the candidate, the
7 title and term of office which is being sought.

8 A. Each voter who signs a nomination paper shall
9 add his place of residence with the street and
10 number, if any. He may subscribe only to as many
11 nomination papers for each office as there are
12 vacancies to be filled.

13 B. All certificates of political caucus nomina-
14 tions shall be signed by the chairman and secre-
15 tary of the caucus. Such certificates and nomina-
16 tion papers shall specify the name of the candi-
17 date and the office for which he is nominated.
18 They shall be filed with the clerk during busi-
19 ness hours on or before the 35th day next prior
20 to the day of election. With such nomination
21 papers and certificates there shall be filed the
22 consent in writing of the persons proposed
23 therein as candidates, agreeing to accept the
24 nomination if nominated, not to withdraw, and, if
25 elected at the municipal election, to qualify as
26 such municipal officer. When filed, they shall be
27 made available by the clerk to public inspection
28 under proper protective regulations. The clerk
29 shall keep them in his office for 6 months.

30 C. A certificate of political caucus nomination
31 and a nomination paper which conforms with this
32 section is valid unless a written objection to it
33 is made to the selectmen on or before the 33rd
34 day next prior to the day of election.

35 (1) When an objection is made, notice shall
36 be delivered immediately by the clerk to the
37 candidate affected by it.

38 (2) Objections arising in the case of nom-
39 inations shall be determined by the select-
40 men, and their decision is final.

1 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this sub-
2 section, where the municipal officers determine
3 to fill a vacancy under the terms of section
4 2253, which must be filled by election, the
5 municipal officers may designate a shorter time
6 period for the availability of nomination papers
7 but not less than 10 days prior to the final date
8 for filing, and may designate a shorter time
9 period for the final date for filing nomination
10 papers but not less than the 14th day next prior
11 to the day of election. Notice of the designation
12 shall be posted in the same place or places as
13 town meeting warrants are posted and local repre-
14 sentatives of the media shall be notified of the
15 designation.

16

STATEMENT OF FACT

17 The purpose of this bill is to reduce the number
18 of signatures needed on a petition nomination for
19 municipal office in municipalities with a population
20 over 500. The bill would require no less than 25 nor
21 more than 100 signatures thus reducing the size of
22 nomination petitions and permitting more persons to
23 qualify to run for office.

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