

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
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5 Legislative Document

No. 425

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7 S.P. 158

In Senate, February 5, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Kany of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative Handy of Lewiston, Representative
11 Reeves of Pittston and Senator Tuttle of York.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Reduce Primary Election Costs.
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19 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
20 follows:

21 21 MRSA §441, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

22 4. Petitions sufficient. If the number of per-
23 sons in a party filing petitions for an office is the
24 same as the number of candidates to be nominated by
25 that party for that office, a primary election shall
26 not be held for that office by that party. The nomi-
27 nation petitions, filed in accordance with this chap-
28 ter, shall be sufficient for nomination.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill eliminates uncontested primary elections. In many cases, it will mean a much shorter primary ballot. In some cases, there will be no primary election at all for one or both parties.

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Primary elections cost the State approximately \$85,000 and local communities an additional \$250,000. While savings would vary from election to election, at least 10% of this cost is likely to be saved. When there are no statewide or district-wide primary contests, as in 1984, savings could be much more substantial.

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