

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 970

H.P. 709

House of Representatives, March 29, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative LAWRENCE of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Senator MATTHEWS of Kennebec, Representative MURPHY of Berwick and Representative PRIEST of Brunswick.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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An Act Regarding Political Party Enrollment.

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

3 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,  
is amended to read:

5  
7 2. Political party not a qualification. The registrar  
shall ~~not inquire~~ be impartial as to the political party of the  
applicant in determining his the applicant's voting  
9 qualifications.

11 Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §141, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is  
amended to read:

13 §141. Enrollment

15  
17 When a person registers, the registrar shall ask him whether  
he or not the person wishes to enroll in a political party. If  
his the answer is in the affirmative, the registrar shall have  
19 ask whether the person complete-the-enrollment-portion-of-the  
application wishes to enroll as a member of the Democratic Party  
21 or the Republican Party. A person shall not be registered to  
vote without expressing an intent with respect to enrollment.

23  
25 1. Influence prohibited. The registrar shall not attempt  
to influence an applicant in his ~~choice-of-a-party~~, any aspect of  
27 the enrollment procedure and he shall not allow anyone else  
present to do so.

29 Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §142, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,  
§6, is amended to read:

31  
33 A voter who had initially chosen not to enroll in a  
particular party may later enroll in a party by filing an  
35 application with the registrar personally, by mail or otherwise,  
at any time, except that on election day a voter must enroll in  
person.

37  
39 Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §151, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is  
amended to read:

41 §151. Same form

43 An individual may shall register to vote and ~~enroll-in-a~~  
~~political-party~~ indicate enrollment status at the same time and  
45 on the same form. If the individual choses to enroll in a  
political party, the designated party shall be indicated on the  
47 registration form. Registration of a person as a voter shall not  
be complete without reference to enrollment status.

49  
51 Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §152, sub-§1, ¶L, as amended by PL 1987, c.  
145, is further amended to read:

1 L. Choice of political party if the applicant desires to  
2 enroll in a political party or an indication that the  
3 applicant chose not to enroll in a party.

5 Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §154, sub-§1, ¶N, as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
6 161, §6, is amended to read:

7  
8 N. Choice of political party if the registrant wishes to  
9 enroll in a political party or an indication that the  
10 applicant chose not to enroll in a party.

11 Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §171, sub-§1, ¶¶H to J, as enacted by PL 1985,  
12 c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

15 H. Remarks concerning registration ~~or enrollment~~;

17 I. Date of registration; and

19 J. Signature of registrant, ; and

21 Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §171, sub-§1, ¶K is enacted to read:

23 K. Political party designation or indication that the voter  
24 wishes unenrolled status.

25

27

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

29

31 This bill requires individuals to state their political  
party membership or indicate unenrolled status upon filing a  
voter registration application.