

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1014, L.D. 1482, Bill, "An Act to Amend the State Ballot Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §334-A is enacted to read:

§334-A. Party decision regarding petition signatures

A political party may choose to consider the signatures of unenrolled voters as valid signatures on nomination petitions for primaries conducted by that party. The state committee of the political party shall make the choice. Except as provided in this section, a party that chooses to accept signatures of unenrolled voters shall notify the Secretary of State of that choice by October 1st of the year before the first year in which the signatures will be accepted. A choice to accept signatures of unenrolled voters is effective until the Secretary of State is notified otherwise. A party that becomes qualified to participate in a primary after October 1st shall notify the Secretary of State of a choice under this section within 7 days after the party becomes qualified.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§§2, 3 and 7, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

2. By whom signed. A primary petition may be signed only by voters of the electoral division which that is to make the nomination and who are enrolled in the party named in the petition or who are unenrolled, if the party chooses to accept the signatures of unenrolled voters pursuant to section 334-A. Other signatures are void.

2 3. How signed. The voter must personally sign his the  
3 voter's name in such a manner as to satisfy the registrar of his  
4 the voter's municipality that he the voter is a registered voter  
5 and enrolled in the party named on the petition or the voter is  
6 unenrolled, if the party chooses to accept the signatures of  
7 unenrolled voters pursuant to section 334-A. Either the voter or  
8 the circulator of the petition must print the voter's name.

9 7. Certification of petition. A primary petition shall  
10 must be verified and certified as follows.

11 A. The circulator of a primary petition shall verify by  
12 oath or affirmation before a notary public or other person  
13 authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations that  
14 all of the signatures to the petition were made in his the  
15 circulator's presence and that to the best of his the  
16 circulator's knowledge and belief each signature is the  
17 signature of the person whose name it purports to be and  
18 each person is enrolled in the party named in the petition  
19 or is unenrolled, if the party chooses to accept the  
20 signatures of unenrolled voters pursuant to section 334-A  
21 and is a resident of the electoral division named in the  
22 petition.

23 B. The registrar of each municipality concerned shall  
24 certify which names on a petition appear on the voting list  
25 of that municipality as registered and enrolled voters and  
26 or unenrolled voters, if the party chooses to accept the  
27 signatures of unenrolled voters pursuant to section 334-A.  
28 The registrar shall strike out any names which that do not  
29 satisfy subsection 3.'

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33 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

34 This amendment strikes all provisions of the bill except  
35 those designating who may sign nomination petitions of party  
36 candidates. The bill permits any registered voter to sign a  
37 petition. The amendment permits each political party to decide  
38 whether it wishes to accept the signature of unenrolled voters as  
39 well as voters enrolled in its own party in nomination petitions.  
40

Reported by the Committee on Legal Affairs  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the  
House  
(5/23/91) (Filing No. H-427)