

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 1101

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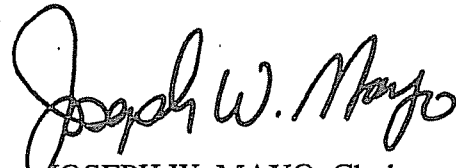
H.P. 815

House of Representatives, April 1, 1993

**An Act to Encourage Participation in Primary Elections.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MICHAEL of Auburn.  
Cosponsored by Representative: TUFTS of Stockton Springs.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §144, sub-§§2 and 3,** as enacted by PL 1985,  
c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

6 **2. Party designation removed from voting list.** On receipt  
of the application, the registrar shall remove the party  
8 designation beside the name of the applicant on the voting list.  
The registrar shall make a notation on the voting list that the  
10 applicant is ineligible to vote at a caucus or primary election,  
~~or for 3 weeks and that the applicant is ineligible~~ to file a  
12 petition as a candidate for nomination by primary election, for 3  
months. Three ~~months~~ weeks after he--receives receiving the  
14 application, the registrar shall enroll the applicant in the  
party requested.

16 This subsection does not apply in the case of a voter who changes  
18 his enrollment under subsection 4.

20 **3. Restrictions during change of enrollment.** A Except as  
provided in subsection 4, a voter may not vote at a caucus,  
22 convention or primary election, ~~or for 3 weeks after filing an~~  
application to change enrollment. A voter may not file a  
24 petition as a candidate for nomination by primary election within  
3 months after filing an application to change his enrollment,  
26 except as provided in subsection 4.

28 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 Under current law, a voter may not vote at a caucus,  
32 convention or primary election for 3 months after filing an  
application to change party enrollment. This bill changes the  
34 period of ineligibility to 3 weeks, allowing voters to change  
their party enrollment 3 weeks before the primary, caucus or  
36 convention. This bill does not change existing law prohibiting a  
person from filing a petition as a candidate for nomination by  
38 primary election within 3 months after filing an application to  
change enrollment in a party.