

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 257

H.P. 198

House of Representatives, January 27, 1995

**An Act to Give Qualifying Status to Certain New Political Parties for 4
Years.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Representative: GERRY of Auburn.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §304**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §304-A** is enacted to read:

8 **§304-A. Duration of status**

10 A party that has qualified under section 302 or 303 to
12 participate in a primary election may participate in subsequent
primary and general elections held during the 4 years following
14 qualification.

16 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §306**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is
amended to read:

18 **§306. Enrolled voters**

20 A voter who is enrolled in a party which that failed to meet
22 the requirements of section 302 or 303, ~~or which is disqualified~~
~~under section 304~~, is considered an unenrolled voter for all
24 purposes.

26 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

28
30 Currently, a new political party that wishes to participate
32 in a primary election may qualify to do so by submitting a
petition containing the signatures of at least 5% of the total
34 vote cast in the State for Governor and then having a candidate
receive at least 5% of the total vote cast in the State for
Governor or President for that election.

36 This bill allows a party that meets these qualifications to
38 participate in all primary and general elections held over the
next 4 years without having to requalify after every election.