

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1300

S.P. 405

In Senate, March 4, 1997

An Act to Increase the Number of Signatures Required for a Name to Appear on the Ballot for Certain Offices.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§5, ¶¶A, B and C**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

6 A. For a candidate for Governor, at least 2,000 4,000 and not more than 3,000 6,000 voters;

8
10 B. For a candidate for United States Senator, at least 2,000 4,000 and not more than 3,000 6,000 voters;

12 C. For a candidate for Representative to Congress, at least 1,000 2,000 and not more than 1,500 3,000 voters;

14
16 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§5, ¶¶A to D**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

18 A. For a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector, at least 4,000 8,000 and not more than 6,000 12,000 voters;

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22 B. For a candidate for Governor, at least 4,000 8,000 and not more than 6,000 12,000 voters;

24
26 C. For a candidate for United States Senator, at least 4,000 8,000 and not more than 6,000 12,000 voters;

28 D. For a candidate for United States Representative, at least 2,000 4,000 and not more than 3,000 6,000 voters;

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32 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §412**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 154, §6, is further amended to read:

34 **§412. Petitions**

36 A candidate for the office of president must ~~either~~ file a petition ~~or pay a filing fee to~~ with the Secretary of State for that candidate's name to be placed on the ballot.

40 **1. Petitions.** A candidate for the office of president who ~~does not pay a filing fee to the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection 2~~ must file with the Secretary of State a petition with at least 2,000 4,000 and not more than 3,000 6,000 voters' signatures. By July 1st of the year preceding each presidential election year, the Secretary of State shall prepare and make available petitions for circulation by persons desiring to be contestants in the state presidential preference primary of any party. The petitions must meet the requirements of sections 335 and 336, excluding section 335, subsections 6 and 8, and must be filed by December 1st in the year next prior to the year of the presidential preference primary election.

2 ~~2. -- Filing fees. -- A candidate for the office of president~~
3 ~~who does not file a petition with the Secretary of State pursuant~~
4 ~~to subsection 1 must pay a \$2,500 filing fee to the Secretary of~~
5 ~~State. -- A candidate must pay the filing fee at the time that~~
6 ~~candidate files the required written statement of intent and no~~
7 ~~later than December 1st in the year next prior to the year of the~~
8 ~~presidential preference primary.~~

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SUMMARY

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13 This bill doubles the number of signatures that are
14 necessary for a candidate to appear on a primary ballot or for a
15 3rd-party candidate to appear on a ballot for the offices of
16 President of the United States, United States Senator,
17 Representative to Congress and Governor. The bill also repeals
18 the provision that permits a candidate to appear on a
19 presidential primary ballot without submitting a petition with
20 signatures.