

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 1376

DATE: May 9, 1997

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 428, L.D. 1376, Bill, "An Act to Improve the State's Democracy by Increasing Access to the Ballot and Other Election Processes"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §302, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

A party whose designation was not listed on the general election ballot in the last preceding gubernatorial---or presidential general election qualifies to participate in a primary election, if it meets the requirements of subsections 1, and 2-and-3.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §302, sub-§§3 and 4, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

3. Municipal caucuses. The--proposed A party that has qualified under subsections 1 and 2 to participate in a primary election must conduct municipal caucuses in at least one municipality in each of the 16 counties during that election year as prescribed in Article II. The ~~chairman~~ chair of the municipal committee or a resident voter in the municipality must file a copy of the notice required by section 311, subsection 3, with the Secretary of State before 5 p.m. on April 15th.

4. Convention. A party ~~which~~ that has qualified under subsections 1, and 2 and-3 to participate in a primary election must, in that same year, conduct the municipal caucuses under subsection 3 hold a state convention, as prescribed by Article

2 III, in order to have the party designation of its candidates
3 printed on the ballot in the general election of that year. The
4 voter or group of voters who file the declaration of intent may
5 perform the duties of the state committee under section 321,
6 subsection 1, for the party's initial convention.'

7 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the
8 following:

9 'Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §303, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
10 161, §6, is amended to read:

11
12 4. **Municipal caucuses.** ~~The--proposed~~ A party that has
13 qualified under subsections 1, 2 and 3 to participate in a
14 primary election must conduct municipal caucuses in at least one
15 municipality in each of the 16 counties during that election year
16 as prescribed in Article II. The ~~chairman~~ chair of the municipal
17 committee or a resident voter in the municipality must file a
18 copy of the notice required by section 311, subsection 3 with the
19 Secretary of State, before 5 p.m. on April 15th.'

20
21 Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 10
22 (page 4, lines 4 to 14 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the
23 following:

24
25 'Sec. 10. 21-A MRSA §503, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted to read:

26
27 D. If the municipal officers are unable to appoint a
28 sufficient number of election clerks as set forth in
29 paragraphs A, B and C, they may appoint any other registered
30 voter, as long as the balance between major political
31 parties is maintained. A municipal officer may not appoint
32 a person to serve as an election clerk as provided in this
33 paragraph after September 1, 1999.'

34
35 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
36 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
37 consecutively.

38
39 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
40 summary the following:

41
42
43
44
45 **FISCAL NOTE**

46
47 The Department of the Secretary of State may incur future
48 election costs if additional political parties qualify as a
49 result of the changes to the qualifying standards. The amounts
50 can not be determined at this time.'

2

SUMMARY

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6 This amendment provides for the recognition of a party that
8 forms around a candidate as qualified to participate in a primary
10 election once it has filed the consent of the candidate. This
12 amendment further corrects language to clarify that a party that
14 forms by petition will be recognized as qualified to participate
16 in a primary election once it has filed the petition.

12 This amendment also provides that until September 1, 1999 if
14 municipal officers are unable to appoint a sufficient member of
16 election clerks from major or qualified minor political parties
they may appoint any registered voter including voters who are
not enrolled in any party, provided the balance between major
parties is maintained.