

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2134

S.P. 758

In Senate, April 5, 1999

An Act to Improve Maine's Ballot Access Law.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, MacKINNON of York, TREAT of
Kennebec, Representatives: GAGNON of Waterville, MAYO of Bath.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §141-A is enacted to read:**

6 **§141-A. Provisional enrollment**

8 When a person wishes to enroll in a party before the party
10 has acquired the number of enrollees required pursuant to section
12 302, that person may do so on a provisional enrollee basis. At
14 the time the party attains the required number of enrollees for
16 full party status, the provisional enrollee then becomes a
regular enrollee and the registrar shall make the necessary
changes in documentation to ensure that a provisional enrollee
becomes a regular enrollee upon verification of full party status
with the Secretary of State. Nothing in this section may be
construed to require a person to enroll in a political party.

18 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §142, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,**
20 **§6, is amended to read:**

22 **2. Party designation or provisional enrollee status on**
24 **voting list.** On receipt of the application, the registrar shall
place the party designation or provisional enrollee status of the
applicant beside ~~his~~ the applicant's name on the voting list and
file the application.

26 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §302, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1985, c.**
28 **161, §6, is repealed.**

30 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §302, sub-§1, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:**

32 B-1. A list of registered voters enrolled or provisionally
34 enrolled in the party at least equal in number to 1/2 of 1%
of the total number of residents of this State based on the
latest Federal Decennial Census;

36 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §302, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,**
38 **§6, is amended to read:**

40 **2. Enrollment of voters and provisional party enrollees.**
42 After filing the declaration described in subsection 1, the voter
or voters proposing to form the party may then enroll voters and
provisional party enrollees in the proposed party under sections
44 141 to 145.

46 **SUMMARY**

48
50 This bill changes the requirements for the establishment of
52 a political party by removing the requirement of naming a
candidate for Governor or for President in the last preceding
gubernatorial or presidential election who received 5%

2 or more of the total vote cast and replaces it with the
requirement of a list of registered voters enrolled or
provisionally enrolled in the party at least equal in number to
4 1/2 of 1% of the total number of residents of this State.

6 The bill establishes provisional enrollment in new parties
that have not attained the required number of enrollees for full
8 party status. An enrollee is recorded as provisional until such
time as the party attains full party status.
10