

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 206

H.P. 195

House of Representatives, January 18, 2001

An Act to Require That Ballots Be Single-sided.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BROOKS of Winterport, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, LaVERDIERE of Wilton,
LESSARD of Topsham, MITCHELL of Vassalboro, SCHNEIDER of Durham, SHERMAN
of Hodgdon, TESSIER of Fairfield.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§40-A** is enacted to read:

6 40-A. Single-sided. "Single-sided" means all ballot
8 content, in accordance with section 601, subsection 2; section
601-A, subsection 2; and section 602, subsection 2, must be
printed on only one side of a ballot.

10 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §601, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 473,
12 §11 and affected by §46, is further amended to read:

14 1. **Arrangement.** The ballots must be arranged in a
single-sided format and in a manner that is as consistent and
uniform as possible throughout the State.

16 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §601-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1997, c.
18 436, §69, is further amended to read:

20 1. **Arrangement.** The ballot must be arranged in a
single-sided format and in a manner that is as consistent and
22 uniform as possible throughout the State.

24 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §602, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL
26 1997, c. 436, §72, is amended to read:

28 1. **Arrangement.** The ballots must be arranged in a
single-sided format and in a manner that is as consistent and
uniform as possible throughout the State.

30 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §604-A**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 436,
32 §79, is further amended to read:

34 **§604-A. Flexibility for combining election ballots**

36 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, the
38 Secretary of State may make suitable arrangement for the printing
of candidate, referendum and municipal election ballots on a
40 single ballot or ballot card used in conjunction with electronic
voting systems or for the printing of candidate and referendum
42 ballots on a single ballot for paper ballot voting systems,
except that the ballot or ballot card must be arranged in a
single-sided format. The Secretary of State may only allow such
44 a combination if the Secretary of State finds that it is in the
interest of the election process and that it will not contribute
46 to voter confusion or unreasonable administrative difficulties.

48 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §848, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459,
50 §100, is further amended to read:

2 **1. Ballot format.** Ballots furnished for elections must be
3 printed in a single-sided format and have the titles of offices
4 and the names of candidates arranged in vertical columns. The
5 office title with a statement of the number of candidates to be
6 voted for must be printed above the names of the candidates for
7 that office. The names of candidates must be printed in the
8 order provided by law. In all except primary and nonpartisan
9 elections, the party designation of each candidate must be
10 printed following or below the candidate's name, in bold type.
11 The number of columns and the length of the ballot may be
12 adjusted as is necessary to accommodate all of the offices,
13 candidates and write-in spaces constituting the total slate for
14 that election. The Secretary of State shall determine the colors
15 of paper on which each ballot must be printed. Symbols such as
16 arrows or ovals may be used to indicate the voter's choice of
17 candidate for each office for which the voter must either
18 complete an arrow or completely fill in an oval to indicate the
19 voter's choice.

20

SUMMARY

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23 This bill requires that the Secretary of State prepare
24 ballots in a single-sided format.