

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1154

H.P. 797

House of Representatives, March 8, 2005

### **An Act To Recognize and Regulate the Proper Formation of Minor Political Parties**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LINDELL of Frankfort.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CUMMINGS of Portland, HOTHAM of Dixfield, McKANE  
of Newcastle.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §308** is enacted to read:

6 **§308. Minor parties**

8 1. **Organization.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, a minor party may organize pursuant to the provisions of this section.

10 2. **Municipal caucuses.** A minor party must organize every odd-numbered year by holding at least one municipal caucus in every county pursuant to section 311.

12 3. **County committees.** A minor party county committee is formed by the municipal caucuses in that county pursuant to subsection 1. The number of delegates nominated to a minor party county committee by a municipal caucus must be determined by the minor party state committee formed pursuant to subsection 4, except that each municipal caucus is entitled to nominate at least 3 delegates to the minor party county committee. If there are at least two municipal caucuses held in a county under subsection 2, then the caucuses must form a minor party county committee. If a minor party county committee is not formed in a county, then the caucus of a municipality in that county pursuant to subsection 1 is deemed to be the minor party county committee.

14 4. **State committee.** The chair of each minor party county committee is a member of the minor party state committee and each minor party county committee may elect up to 2 other delegates to the minor party state committee.

16 5. **Nominations.** A minor party county committee nominates a minor party local or county candidate for that county. A minor party state committee nominates a minor party statewide, federal or presidential elector candidate. The party must file a certification of the name of a candidate nominated under this subsection to the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. on June 1st in the election year in which the candidate is running, except that certification for a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. on August 15th in the election year in which the slate of candidates is running. The requirements of a nomination by petition under sections 351, 352 and 353; section 354, subsection 1; and sections 355 and 357 apply, as applicable, to a nomination by certification under this section.

18 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §331, sub-§2, ¶¶B and C,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, are amended to read:

2 B. Nominations to fill vacancies under subchapter III 3; and

4 C. Nominations by petition under subchapter II, 2; and

6 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §331, sub-§2, ¶D** is enacted to read:

8 D. Nominations by certification under section 308,  
10 subsection 5.

12 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill allows the formation of minor political parties in  
16 the State. Minor political parties are organized by holding at  
least one municipal caucus in every county and nominate  
candidates through a party committee nominating process.