

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 899

H.P. 617

House of Representatives, March 5, 2009

An Act To Require Candidates for Public Office To Provide Proof of Citizenship

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CEBRA of Naples.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CUSHING of Hampden, FITTS of Pittsfield, JOY of Crystal,
ROBINSON of Raymond, SARTY of Denmark, THOMAS of Ripley.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §334**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §21, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§334. Qualification of candidate for primary nomination**

5 A candidate for nomination by primary election must file a primary petition and
6 consent under sections 335 and 336. The candidate must be enrolled, on or before March
7 15th, in the party named in the petition and must be eligible to file a petition as a
8 candidate for nomination by primary election under section 144, subsection 3. The
9 registrar in the candidate's municipality of residence must certify to that fact upon the
10 petition. A candidate for nomination by primary election shall show proof of United
11 States citizenship in the form of a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate and the
12 candidate's driver's license or other government-issued identification to the Secretary of
13 State.

14 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §353**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 426, §11, is further
15 amended to read:

16 **§353. Qualification of candidate for nomination by petition**

17 A person who seeks nomination by petition qualifies by filing a nomination petition
18 and consent as provided in sections 354 and 355. If enrolled, the person must also
19 withdraw enrollment in a party on or before March 1st to be eligible to file a petition as a
20 candidate in that election year, as provided in section 145. The registrar, or clerk at the
21 request or upon the absence of the registrar, in the candidate's municipality of residence
22 must certify to that fact on the petition. A person who seeks nomination by petition shall
23 show proof of United States citizenship in the form of a certified copy of the candidate's
24 birth certificate and the candidate's driver's license or other government-issued
25 identification to the Secretary of State.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill requires candidates running for office to show proof of United States
28 citizenship in the form of a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate and the
29 candidate's driver's license or other government-issued identification to the Secretary of
30 State.