

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 507

H.P. 346

House of Representatives, February 24, 2015

**An Act To Allow Primary Petition Signature Requirements To Be
Proportional with Party Enrollment**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, GOLDEN of Lewiston, HANINGTON of Lincoln, KINNEY of Limington, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§5, ¶¶A to C**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6,
3 are amended to read:

4 A. For candidate for Governor, at least 1% of the voters enrolled in the candidate's
5 party and residing in the State as of December 1st of the year before the election or
6 2,000 and not more than 3,000 voters, whichever is less;

7 B. For a candidate for United States Senator, at least 1% of the voters enrolled in the
8 candidate's party and residing in the candidate's electoral district as of December 1st
9 of the year before the election or 2,000 and not more than 3,000 voters, whichever is
10 less;

11 C. For a candidate for Representative to Congress, at least 1% of the voters enrolled
12 in the candidate's party and residing in the candidate's electoral district as of
13 December 1st of the year before the election or 1,000 and not more than 1,500 voters,
14 whichever is less;

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill changes the law governing a candidate's nomination by primary election for
17 the office of Governor, United States Senator or Representative to Congress. It changes
18 the number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Governor or
19 United States Senator to be 1% of the voters enrolled in the candidate's party and residing
20 in the candidate's electoral district as of December 1st of the year before the election or
21 the current minimum requirement of 2,000 voters, whichever is less. It also changes the
22 number of signatures required on a primary petition for the office of Representative to
23 Congress to be 1% of the voters so enrolled or the current minimum of 1,000 voters,
24 whichever is less.