

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 295

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H.P. 228

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

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**An Act To Amend the Requirements for a Political Party To Retain  
Qualified Party Status under the Election Laws**

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Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
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 LUCHINI of Ellsworth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CASÁS of Rockport, DUNPHY of Old Town,  
HANINGTON of Lincoln, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §301, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 426, §2, is  
3 amended to read:

4 E. At least 10,000 voters enrolled in the party voted in the last general election or the  
5 party's nominee for President or Governor received 5% or more of the total vote cast  
6 in the State for President or for Governor in that election.

7 **Sec. 2. Retroactivity.** This Act applies retroactively to November 1, 2016 and  
8 applies to any party whose nominee for President of the United States appeared on the  
9 ballot at the general election on November 8, 2016.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill amends the requirements for a political party to retain qualified party status.  
12 It allows a party to retain that status if the party's nominee for President of the United  
13 States or Governor received at least 5% of the total vote cast in the State for President or  
14 Governor in the last general election. This provision applies to any party whose nominee  
15 for President appeared on the ballot at the general election on November 8, 2016.