

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1646

Date: 10/20/17 Report D

(Filing No. H-569)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
128TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 1137, L.D. 1646, Bill, "An Act To Bring Maine's Ranked-choice Voting Law into Constitutional Compliance"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Implement Ranked-choice Voting in 2019 for All State Primary Elections and for General Elections for Offices of United States Senator and United States Representative to Congress'**

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 27-C in paragraph A in the last line (page 1, line 7 in L.D.) by inserting at the end the following: 'and'

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 27-C in paragraph B in the last line (page 1, line 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "; and" and inserting the following: ','

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 27-C by striking out all of paragraph C (page 1, lines 10 to 16 in L.D.)

Amend the bill in section 5 in subsection 1 by striking out all of the first sentence (page 2, lines 5 to 8 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'In a primary election held before December 1, 2019, the person who receives a plurality of the votes cast for nomination to any office, as long as there is at least one vote cast for that office, is nominated for that office, except for write-in candidates under paragraph A. In a primary election held on or after December 1, 2019, the person who is determined the winner pursuant to section 723-A for nomination to any office, as long as there is at least one vote cast for that office, is nominated for that office, except for write-in candidates under paragraph A.'

Amend the bill by adding after section 9 the following:

**'Sec. 10. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§6, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 3, §5, is amended to read:**

**6. Application.** This section applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2018 December 1, 2019.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**





# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1646

LR 2379(04)

An Act To Bring Maine's Ranked-choice Voting Law into Constitutional Compliance

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

*C (H-569)*

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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## Fiscal Note

Unbudgeted savings on delay - General Fund

Unbudgeted savings on delay - Highway Fund

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Costs related to ranked-choice voting were estimated in the fiscal note for LD 1557 of the 127th Legislature, which was introduced as Initiated Bill 2 in response to a successful citizen initiated petition drive. As LD 1557 was indefinitely postponed, there was no opportunity to put funding for the Secretary of State (SOS) or the Department of Public Safety (DPS) into that bill. Subsequent approval by the voters in November of 2016 meant any funding would have to wait for implementing legislation. Delaying implementation of ranked-choice voting until elections held after December 1, 2019 will eliminate any funding that would have been required by the SOS and the DPS in the current biennium. As no funding has ever been budgeted, no savings will be booked on delay.

Additional costs to the Department of Secretary of State associated with conducting an evaluation and recommending legislation for the administration of ranked-choice voting can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Any appropriations and allocations associated with implementing ranked-choice voting would need to be included within that subsequent legislation.