

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Rep B

DMC
ROB/S

L.D. 1083

REPORT A

Date: 6/18/19

(Filing No. S-33)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

129TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 315, L.D. 1083, Bill, "An Act To Implement Ranked-choice Voting for Presidential Primary and General Elections in Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§27-C, as repealed and replaced by PL 2017, c. 316, §1, is amended to read:

27-C. Elections determined by ranked-choice voting. "Elections determined by ranked-choice voting" means any of the following elections in which 3 or more candidates have qualified to be listed on the ballot for a particular office or at least 2 such candidates plus one or more declared write-in candidates have qualified for that particular office:

A. Primary elections for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative;

B. General and special elections for the offices of United States Senator and United States Representative to Congress; and

D. General elections for presidential electors; and

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§27-C, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. Primary elections for the office of President of the United States.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Presidential primary elections; selection of delegates. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, selection and allocation of delegates to a party's national presidential nominating convention must be in accordance with any reasonable procedures established at the state party convention.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §801, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 2. Counting of ballots. Counting of ballots for candidates for President must
2 proceed according to the ranked-choice method of counting votes described in section
3 723-A.

4 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §805, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended
5 to read:

6 **2. Presidential electors.** The presidential electors at large shall cast their ballots for
7 the presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the largest number of votes
8 in the State according to the ranked-choice method of counting votes described in section
9 723-A. The presidential electors of each congressional district shall cast their ballots for
10 the presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the largest number of votes
11 in each respective congressional district according to the ranked-choice method of
12 counting votes described in section 723-A.

13 **Sec. 6. Contingent effective date.** Those sections of this Act that enact the
14 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 27-C, paragraph E and Title
15 21-A, section 723-A, subsection 5-B take effect upon the enactment of laws adopting a
16 presidential primary election in this State.'

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces
19 the bill. Under the amendment, general elections for presidential electors must be
20 determined by ranked-choice voting. The amendment further provides that, if a law
21 establishing a presidential primary election is enacted in the State, primary elections for
22 the office of President of the United States must be determined by ranked-choice voting.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1083

LR 1160(02)

An Act To Implement Ranked-choice Voting for Presidential Primary and General Elections in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"(S-313)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides for ranked-choice voting for general elections for presidential electors if a law establishing a presidential primary election is enacted in Maine. Ranked-choice voting is currently in place for state primary elections and general elections for federal Congressional candidates. Requiring ranked-choice voting for general elections for presidential electors is not expected to add significant costs for this expansion.