

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1213

H.P. 877

House of Representatives, March 12, 2019

An Act To Repeal the Ranked-choice Voting Law

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 STETKIS of Canaan.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, HANINGTON of
Lincoln, HEAD of Bethel, HUTCHINS of Penobscot, O'CONNOR of Berwick, REED of
Carmel, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§27-C**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2017, c. 316,
3 §1, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§35-A**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 3, §2, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §601, sub-§2, ¶J**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §3, is
6 repealed.

7 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §695, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §4, is further
8 amended to read:

9 ~~Except for elections determined by ranked choice voting, the following provisions~~
10 ~~apply to the counting of ballots.~~ The election clerks shall count the ballots under the
11 supervision of the warden as soon as the polls are closed, except that if, in the opinion of
12 the municipal clerk the public interests will best be served, referendum ballots may be
13 counted on the day immediately following the election, as long as the count is completed
14 within 24 hours after the polls are closed. If referendum ballots are counted under this
15 exception, the municipal clerk is responsible for the security and safekeeping of the
16 ballots until the count has been completed.

17 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §722, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §5, is further
18 amended to read:

19 **1. How tabulated.** The Secretary of State shall tabulate all votes that appear by an
20 election return to have been cast for each question or candidate whose name appeared on
21 the ballot. ~~For elections determined by ranked choice voting, the Secretary of State shall~~
22 ~~tabulate the votes according to the ranked choice voting method described in section~~
23 ~~723-A.~~ The Secretary of State shall tabulate the votes that appear by an election return to
24 have been cast for a declared write-in candidate based on a recount requested and
25 conducted pursuant to section 737-A, subsection 2-A.

26 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §723, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §7, is further
27 amended to read:

28 **2. Other elections.** In any other election ~~except for those determined by ranked-~~
29 ~~choice voting,~~ the person who receives a plurality of the votes cast for election to any
30 office, as long as there is at least one vote cast for that office, is elected to that office,
31 except that a write-in candidate must also comply with section 722-A.

32 **Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §723-A**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §§8 to 10, is
33 repealed.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill repeals the laws governing ranked-choice voting.