

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1447

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H.P. 1059

House of Representatives, April 2, 2019

**An Act To Simplify Voting in Maine by Placing a Moratorium on  
Ranked-choice Voting**

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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 WHITE of Washburn.  
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and  
Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,  
HANINGTON of Lincoln, MARTIN of Greene, STEWART of Presque Isle, STROM of  
Pittsfield, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis.

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2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§27-C**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2017, c. 316,  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

4 **27-C. Elections determined by ranked-choice voting.** "Elections determined by  
5 ranked-choice voting" means:

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

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

10 This subsection is repealed December 1, 2023 unless, prior to that date, the voters of the  
11 State ratify an amendment to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First, Section 5,  
12 Article IV, Part Second, Sections 4 and 5 and Article V, Part First, Section 3 authorizing  
13 the Legislature, by proper enactment, to determine the method by which the Governor  
14 and members of the State Senate and House of Representatives are elected.

15 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§35-A**, as enacted by IB 2015, c. 3, §2, is amended  
16 to read:

17 **35-A. Ranked-choice voting.** "Ranked-choice voting" means the method of casting  
18 and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation  
19 proceeds in sequential rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the  
20 candidate with the most votes in the final round is elected.

21 This subsection is repealed December 1, 2023 unless, prior to that date, the voters of the  
22 State ratify an amendment to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First, Section 5,  
23 Article IV, Part Second, Sections 4 and 5 and Article V, Part First, Section 3 authorizing  
24 the Legislature, by proper enactment, to determine the method by which the Governor  
25 and members of the State Senate and House of Representatives are elected.

26 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §601, sub-§2, ¶J**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 316, §3, is  
27 further amended to read:

28 J. For elections determined by ranked-choice voting, the ballot must be simple and  
29 easy to understand and allow a voter to rank candidates for an office in order of  
30 preference. A voter may include no more than one write-in candidate among that  
31 voter's ranked choices for each office.

32 This paragraph is repealed December 1, 2023 unless, prior to that date, the voters of  
33 the State ratify an amendment to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First,  
34 Section 5, Article IV, Part Second, Sections 4 and 5 and Article V, Part First, Section  
35 3 authorizing the Legislature, by proper enactment, to determine the method by  
36 which the Governor and members of the State Senate and House of Representatives  
37 are elected.

38 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §723, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 248, §5, is further  
39 amended to read:

