

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 694

H.P. 463

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

An Act to Lower the Signature Quantity Requirement for Certain Independent Candidates for Elected Office

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RISEMAN of Harrison.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and
Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, BOYER of Poland, DODGE of Belfast, O'CONNELL
of Brewer, PLUECKER of Warren, RECKITT of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor,
WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §6, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Number of signatures required.** Nomination petitions must be signed by the
5 following numbers of voters:

6 A. For a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector, at least 4,000 and not
7 more than 5,000 voters;

8 B. For a candidate for Governor, at least ~~4,000~~ 2,000 and not more than ~~5,000~~ 2,500
9 voters;

10 C. For a candidate for United States Senator, at least 4,000 and not more than 5,000
11 voters;

12 D. For a candidate for United States Representative, at least ~~2,000~~ 1,000 and not more
13 than ~~2,500~~ 1,250 voters;

14 E. For a candidate for county office other than county commissioner or county charter
15 commission member, at least ~~300~~ 150 and not more than ~~400~~ 200 voters;

16 E-1. For a candidate for county commissioner, at least ~~100~~ 50 and not more than ~~150~~
17 75 voters;

18 F. For a candidate for State Senator, at least ~~200~~ 100 and not more than ~~300~~ 150 voters;

19 G. For a candidate for State Representative, at least ~~50~~ 25 and not more than ~~80~~ 40
20 voters; and

21 H. For a candidate for county charter commission member, at least 50 and not more
22 than 80 voters.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill lowers the number of signatures required for a nomination petition for an
25 independent candidate for Governor, United States Representative, county commissioner,
26 county office other than county commissioner or county charter commission member, State
27 Senator and State Representative.