

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 922

S.P. 393

In Senate, March 2, 2023

**An Act to Clarify Required Disclosure of Personally Identifying
Information for Certain Nominating Petitions**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§1**, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. B, §41, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Content.** A primary petition must contain the name of only one candidate and that
5 candidate's place of residence, party, office sought and electoral division, except that a
6 petition for a federal office must contain the candidate's municipality of residence and is
7 not required to contain the candidate's place of residence. A primary petition may contain
8 as many separate papers as necessary and may contain the candidate's consent required by
9 section 336.

10 A. When 2 United States Senators are to be nominated, the primary petition must
11 contain the term of office sought by the candidate.

12 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §336, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §24, is further
13 amended to read:

14 **3. Residence and party declared.** The consent must contain a declaration of the
15 candidate's place of residence and party designation and a statement that the candidate
16 meets the qualifications of the office the candidate seeks, which the candidate must verify
17 by oath or affirmation before a notary public or other person authorized by law to
18 administer oaths or affirmations that the declaration is true. If, pursuant to the challenge
19 procedures in section 337, any part of the declaration is found to be false by the Secretary
20 of State, the consent and the primary petition are void. When made available as a public
21 record, the consent must be redacted to remove the place of residence of a candidate for a
22 federal office.

23 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §11, is further
24 amended to read:

25 **1. Content.** A nomination petition must contain the name of only one candidate, the
26 candidate's place of residence, the office sought and electoral division, except that a petition
27 for a federal office must contain the candidate's municipality of residence and is not
28 required to contain the candidate's place of residence. A nomination petition may contain
29 as many separate papers as necessary and may contain the candidate's consent required by
30 section 355. It may also contain the candidate's political designation. This designation
31 may not exceed 3 words in length, may not incorporate the candidate's name or the
32 designation or an abbreviation of the designation of a party that is qualified to nominate
33 candidates by primary election and may not consist of or comprise language that is obscene,
34 contemptuous, profane or prejudicial, promotes abusive or unlawful activity or violates any
35 other provision of the laws of this State with respect to names. A candidate who intends to
36 form a new party about that person's candidacy must use the proposed party's designation.

37 A. When 2 United States Senators are to be nominated, the nomination petition must
38 contain the term of office sought by the candidate.

39 B. The names of presidential electors must be placed on the petition as a slate. The
40 names of the candidates for President and Vice President must be placed on a petition
41 for the nomination of presidential electors.

42 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §355, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §12, is further
43 amended to read:

