

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1071

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S.P. 440

In Senate, March 9, 2023

**An Act to Allow Political Candidates to Be Nominated by Multiple  
Parties for the Same Office**

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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 BRAKEY of Androscoggin.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§24-A** is enacted to read:

3 **24-A. Multiparty candidate.** "Multiparty candidate" means a candidate who has been  
4 nominated by more than one party for the same office.

5 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §331**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 447, §8, is further amended  
6 by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

7 This section does not prohibit a candidate from seeking the nomination of the party in  
8 which the candidate is enrolled and the nomination of a different party for the same office  
9 as long as the different party has notified the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 340-A,  
10 whether the rules of the party allow for the nomination of a candidate who is enrolled in a  
11 different party.

12 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §340-A** is enacted to read:

13 **§340-A. Notice to Secretary of State of multiparty candidate option**

14 No later than February 1st of the election year, each party eligible to participate in a  
15 primary election shall notify the Secretary of State whether the rules of the party allow for  
16 the nomination of a candidate who is enrolled in and seeking the nomination of a different  
17 party for the same office.

18 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §601, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §16, is  
19 further amended to read:

20 B. The ballot must contain the legal name of each candidate, without any title, and  
21 municipality or township of residence of each candidate, arranged alphabetically with  
22 the last name first, under the proper office designation. Municipality of residence is  
23 not required to be printed for candidates for President and Vice President of the United  
24 States. The initial letters of the last names of the candidates must be printed directly  
25 beneath each other in a vertical line. The names of candidates for any one office may  
26 not be split into more than one column regardless of number. The name of each  
27 candidate may be printed on the ballot in only one space. For the general election  
28 ballot, the party or political designation of each candidate must be printed with each  
29 candidate's name, or multiple parties if there is a multiparty candidate for any one  
30 office. The party or political designation may be abbreviated.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill provides that a political party, qualified to participate in a primary election,  
33 may nominate a candidate who has been nominated for the same office by a different  
34 political party. Political parties must notify the Secretary of State no later than February 1st  
35 of an election year of that party's decision to allow a person not enrolled in that party to be  
36 that party's nominee for an office.