

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1320

S.P. 539

In Senate, March 23, 2023

**An Act to Improve Signature Requirements for Candidates by
Allowing Unenrolled Voters to Sign Petitions for Party Candidates**

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 CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and
Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, HYMES of
Waldo, RISEMAN of Harrison.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended
3 to read:

4 **2. By whom signed.** A primary petition may be signed only by voters of the electoral
5 division ~~which~~ that is to make the nomination and who are enrolled in the party named in
6 the petition or who are unenrolled. Other signatures are void.

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§3**, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. B, §42, is
8 amended to read:

9 **3. How signed.** The voter must personally sign that voter's name in such a manner as
10 to satisfy the registrar of that voter's municipality that the voter is a registered voter and
11 enrolled in the party named on the petition or unenrolled. Either the voter or the circulator
12 of the petition must print the voter's name.

13 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 253, §17, is further
14 amended to read:

15 **7. Certification of petition.** A primary petition ~~shall~~ must be verified and certified as
16 follows.

17 A. The circulator of a primary petition shall verify by oath or affirmation before a
18 notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations that
19 the circulator personally witnessed all of the signatures to the petition and that to the
20 best of the circulator's knowledge and belief each signature is the signature of the
21 person whose name it purports to be; each signature authorized under section 153-A
22 was made by the authorized signer in the presence and at the direction of the voter; and
23 each person is enrolled in the party named in the petition or unenrolled and is a resident
24 of the electoral division named in the petition.

25 B. The registrar, or clerk at the request or upon the absence of the registrar, of each
26 municipality concerned shall certify which names on a petition appear in the central
27 voter registration system as registered ~~and enrolled~~ voters in that municipality and may
28 not certify any names that do not satisfy subsection 3.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill allows a primary petition for a candidate for election to be signed by voters
31 who are enrolled in the party named in the petition and unenrolled voters.