

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 163.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND NINETY-ONE.

AN ACT to provide for Printing and Distributing Ballots at the
Public Expense and to Regulate Voting for State and City
Elections.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECT. 1. All ballots cast in elections for national, State, dis-
2 trict and county officers in cities and towns of over two thousand
3 inhabitants, according to the last preceding United States
4 Census, after the first day of September in the year eighteen
5 hundred and ninety-two and all ballots cast in municipal elections
6 in cities after that date, shall be printed and distributed at public
7 expense, as hereinafter provided. The printing of the ballots
8 and cards of instructions to voters shall in municipal elections in
9 cities be paid for by the several cities respectively, and in all
10 other elections the printing of the ballots and cards of instruction,
11 and the delivery of them to the several cities and towns, shall be
12 paid for by the State. The distribution of the ballots to the

13 voters shall be paid for by the cities and towns respectively ;
14 *provided*, that all towns, of less than two thousand inhabitants,
15 and all plantations at any regular or special town meeting legally
16 called not oftener than once a year, may adopt the provisions of
17 this act as to elections for national, State, district and county offi-
18 cers, and the method of voting for such officers, in such towns and
19 plantations shall thereafter be as provided in this act. The clerks
20 of such towns and plantations shall forthwith notify in writing,
21 the Secretary of State of such adoption.

The term "State election," as used in this act, shall apply to
23 any election held for the choice of a national, State, district or
24 county officer, whether for a full term or for the filling of a
25 vacancy, and the term "State officer" shall apply to any person
26 to be chosen by the qualified voters at such an election. The
27 term "city election" shall apply to any municipal election so held
28 in a city, and the term "city officer" shall apply to any person
29 to be chosen by the qualified voters at such an election.

Nominations of Candidates.

SECT. 2. Any convention of delegates, and any caucus or
2 meeting of qualified voters, as hereinafter defined, and individual
3 voters to the number and in the manner hereinafter specified,
4 may nominate candidates for public office, whose names shall be
5 placed upon the ballots to be furnished as herein provided.

SECT. 3. Any convention of delegates representing a political
2 party which, at the gubernatorial election next preceding, polled
3 at least one per cent. of the entire vote cast in the State for
4 governor, or in the electoral district or division thereof for
5 which the nomination is made, and any caucus held by such a
6 political party in any such electoral district or division, may
7 for the State, or for the district or division for which the con-
8 vention or caucus is held, as the case may be, by causing a cer-
9 tificate of nomination to be duly filed, make one such nomination

10 for each office therein to be filled at the election. Every such
11 certificate of nomination shall state such facts as may be required
12 as above for its acceptance, and as are required in section five of
13 this act; shall be signed by the presiding officer or by the sec-
14 retary of the convention or caucus; and shall be sworn by the
15 party signing to be true, and a certificate of the oath shall be
16 annexed to or made on the certificate of nomination.

SECT. 4. Nominations of candidates for any offices to be
2 filled by the voters of the State at large may be made by nom-
3 ination papers signed in the aggregate for each candidate by not
4 less than one thousand qualified voters of the State. Nomina-
5 tions of candidates for electoral districts or divisions of the State,
6 or for municipal or ward officers, may be made by nomination
7 papers signed in the aggregate for each candidate by qualified
8 voters of such district or division, not less in number than one
9 for every one hundred persons who voted at the next preceding
10 gubernatorial election in such district or division, but in
11 no case less than twenty-five. In the case of a first election
12 to be held in a town or ward newly established, the number of
13 twenty-five shall be sufficient for the nomination of a candi-
14 date who is to be voted for only in such town or ward; and in
15 the case of a first election in a district or division newly estab-
16 lished, other than a town or ward, the number of twenty-five shall
17 be sufficient. Each voter signing a nomination paper shall make
18 his signature in person, and add to it his place of residence, and
19 each voter may subscribe to one nomination for each office to be
20 filled, and no more. The nomination papers shall before being
21 filed be respectively submitted to the clerks of the cities or
22 towns in which the signers purport to be qualified voters, and
23 each clerk to whom the same is submitted shall forthwith certify
24 thereon what number of the signatures are names of qualified
25 voters both in the city or town for which he is a clerk and in the
26 district or division for which the nomination is made; one of
27 the signers to each such separate paper shall swear to the truth

28 thereof, and the certificate of such oath shall be annexed to or
29 made upon the nomination papers.

SECT. 5. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers
2 shall, besides containing the names of candidates, specify as to
3 each (1) the office for which he is nominated; (2) the party or
4 political principle which he represents, expressed in not more
5 than three words; (3) his place of residence. In the case of
6 electors of president and vice president of the United States,
7 the names of the candidates for president and vice president
8 may be added to the party or political appellation.

SECT. 6. Certificates of nomination and nomination papers for
2 the nomination of candidates for State or county offices rep-
3 resentatives to the legislature shall be filed with the Secretary
4 of State at least twenty days, exclusive of Sundays, previous
5 to the day of the election for which the candidates are nominated.
6 Such certificates and papers for the nomination of candidates for
7 the offices of mayor and all other offices in cities shall be filed
8 with the city clerks of the respective cities at least seven days,
9 exclusive of Sundays, previous to the day of such election.
10 With nomination papers shall also be filed the consent in writing
11 of the person nominated.

SECT. 7. The certificates of nomination and nomination papers
2 being filed, and being in apparent conformity with the pro-
3 visions of this act, shall be deemed to be valid; and if not in
4 apparent conformity, they may be seasonably amended under
5 oath.

SECT. 8. In case a candidate who has been duly nominated
2 under the provisions of this act, shall die before the day of
3 election, or shall withdraw in writing, the vacancy may be sup-
4 plied by the political party or other persons making the orig-
5 inal nomination, in the manner herein provided for such
6 nomination; or, if the time is insufficient therefor, then
7 the vacancy may be supplied, if the nomination was made
8 by a convention or caucus, in such manner as the conven-

9 tion or caucus has previously provided for the purpose, or, in
10 case of no such previous provision, then by a regularly elected
11 general or executive committee, representing the political party
12 or persons holding such convention or caucus. The certificates
13 of nomination made for supplying such vacancy shall state, in
14 addition to the other facts required by this act, the name of the
15 original nominee, the facts causing the vacancy, and the meas-
16 ures taken in accordance with the above requirements for filling
17 the vacancy; said certificate shall be accompanied by the with-
18 drawal, if any, and shall be signed and sworn to by the presiding
19 officer or secretary of the convention or caucus, or by the chairman
20 or secretary of the duly authorized committee, as the case may be.
21 The name so supplied for the vacancy shall, if the ballots have
22 not been printed for the office already, be placed on the ballots,
23 instead of the original nomination; or, if the ballots have been
24 printed, new ballots containing the new nomination shall, when-
25 ever practicable, be furnished.

SECT. 9. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers
2 when filed shall forthwith be opened and kept open under proper
3 regulations to public inspection, and the Secretary of State and
4 the several city clerks shall preserve the same in their respective
5 offices not less than one year.

SECT. 10. Every general ballot, or ballot intended for the use
2 of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with the pro-
3 visions of this act, shall contain the names and residences
4 of all candidates whose nominations for any office specified in the
5 ballot have been duly made and not withdrawn in accordance
6 herewith, and the office for which they have been severally
7 nominated and shall contain no other names except that in
8 the case of electors of president and vice president of the United
9 States and the names of the candidates for president and vice
10 president may be added to the party or political designation. The
11 names of candidates nominated by any party shall be grouped
12 together upon the ballot, and each group shall be headed by the

13 name of the party by which the candidates comprising such
14 group were placed in nomination, or by the political designation
15 as described in the certificate of nomination, or nomination
16 papers. If only one person be nominated by any party or under
17 any political designation, his name with the office for which he
18 is a candidate shall be printed by itself under the name of such
19 party or political designation. A blank space shall be left after
20 the names of the candidates for each different office in which the
21 voter may insert the name of any person, not printed on the
22 ballot, for whom he desires to vote as candidate for such office.
23 Whenever the approval of a constitutional amendment or other
24 question is submitted to the vote of the people, such questions
25 shall be printed upon the ballot after the list of candidates.

The ballots shall be so printed as to leave a blank space at the
27 right of the name of the party or political designation, and also
28 at the right of the name of each candidate, so as to give to each
29 voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross mark [X]
30 therein, his choice of candidates, and his answers to the questions
31 submitted and on the ballot may be printed such words as will
32 aid the voter to do this as “yes,” “no,” and the like.

The ballot shall be not less than four inches in width and not
34 less than six inches in length. Before distribution the ballots
35 shall be so folded in marked creases that their width and length
36 when folded shall be uniform. On the back and outside, when
37 folded shall be printed “Official Ballot for,” followed by the
38 designation of the polling place for which the ballot is prepared,
39 the date of the election, and a fac-simile of the signature of the
40 Secretary of State or city clerk who has caused the ballot to be
41 printed. Except as otherwise herein provided, ballots shall be
42 printed in accordance with the existing provisions of law.

SECT. 11. All ballots when printed shall be folded as herein-
2 before provided and fastened together in convenient numbers in
3 books or blocks, in such manner that each ballot may be detached

4 and removed separately. A record of the number of ballots
5 printed and furnished to each polling place shall be kept and pre-
6 served by the Secretary of State and the several city clerks for
7 the term of one year.

SECT. 12. There shall be provided for each voting place, at
2 which an election is to be held, two sets of such general ballots,
3 each of not less than seventy-five for every fifty and fraction of
4 fifty voters therein, and it shall be the duty of the clerks in each
5 city or town in which an election for State or county officers is
6 to be held to certify to the Secretary of State fourteen days
7 previous to any such election, the number of qualified voters in
8 each city or in each town.

Information of Voters.

SECT. 13. The Secretary of State in case of a State election,
2 and the several city clerks, in case of city elections, shall prepare
3 full instructions for the guidance of voters at such elections, as
4 to obtaining ballots, as to the manner of marking them, and the
5 method of gaining assistance, and as to obtaining new ballots in
6 place of those accidentally spoiled, and they shall respectively
7 cause the same, together with copies of sections twenty-nine,
8 thirty, thirty-one and thirty-two of this act to be printed in large,
9 clear type, on separate cards, to be called cards of instructions ;
10 and they shall respectively furnish the same and the ballots for
11 use in each such election. They shall also cause to be printed
12 on tinted paper, and without the fac-simile endorsements, ten or
13 more copies of the form of the ballot provided for each voting
14 place at each election therein, which shall be called specimen
15 ballots and shall be furnished with the other ballots provided for
16 each such voting place.

SECT. 14. The Secretary of State shall, seven days at least pre-
2 vious to the day of any election of State or county officers, trans-
3 mit to the clerks in each city and town in which such election is

4 to be held, printed lists containing the names, residences, and
5 party or political appellations of all candidates nominated as
6 herein provided for such election and to be voted for at each poll-
7 ing place in each such city and town respectively, substantially
8 in the form of the general ballot to be so used therein; and the
9 clerks shall immediately cause the lists for each town or ward,
10 as the case may be, to be conspicuously posted in one or more
11 public places in such town or ward. The Secretary of State shall
12 likewise cause to be published prior to the day of any such election,
13 in at least two newspapers, if there be so many, published in
14 each county, representing, so far as practicable, the political
15 parties which, at the preceding election, cast the largest and next
16 largest number of votes, a list of all the nomination made as
17 herein provided and to be voted for in such county, so far as may
18 be, in the form in which they shall appear upon the general
19 ballots. New nominations made or authorized shall be trans-
20 mitted, posted and published promptly, and so far as practicable
21 in the manner herein directed, and communications transmitted
22 as herein directed by the Secretary of State to any clerk shall be
23 duplicated on the succeeding day.

SECR. 15. The city clerk of each city shall four days at least
2 prior to the day of any city election therein, cause to be conspic-
3 uously posted in one or more public places in each ward of such
4 city a printed list containing the names, residences, and party or
5 political appellations of all candidates nominated, as herein pro-
6 vided, and to be voted for in such ward, substantially in the
7 form of the general ballot to be so used therein; and he shall like-
8 wise cause to be published, prior to the day of such election, in
9 at least two newspapers, if there be so many, published in such
10 city, representing the political parties which cast at the preceding
11 election the largest and next largest number of votes, a list of
12 all the nominations made, as herein provided, and to be voted
13 for in such city, so far as may be, in the form in which they shall
14 appear upon the general ballots.

Delivery of Ballots to Cities and Towns.

SECT. 16. The Secretary of State shall send, separately and 2 at different times or by different methods, the two sets of general 3 and special ballots, together with the specimen ballots, and cards 4 of instruction printed by him, as herein provided, to the several 5 city and town clerks, so as to be received by them, one set 72 6 hours at least previous to the day of election, and the other set 7 48 hours at least previous thereto. The same shall be sent in 8 sealed packages, with marks on the outside clearly designating 9 the polling place for which they are intended and the number of 10 ballots of each kind enclosed; and the respective city and town 11 clerks shall on delivery to them of such packages return receipts 12 therefor to the secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of 13 the time when, and the manner in which the several packages are 14 sent, and shall preserve for the period of one year the receipts of 15 the city and town clerks.

SECT. 17. The two sets of ballots together with the specimen 2 ballots and cards of instruction printed by the city clerks, as 3 herein provided, shall be packed by them in separate sealed 4 packages, with marks on the outside clearly designating the poll- 5 ing places for which they are intended, and the number of ballots 6 of each kind enclosed.

SECT. 18. The several city and town clerks or municipal 2 officers shall send to the election officers of each voting 3 place before the opening of the polls on the day of election 4 one set of ballots so prepared, sealed and marked for 5 such voting place, and a receipt of such delivery shall be 6 returned to them from the presiding or senior election 7 officer present, which receipt, with a record of the number of 8 ballots sent, shall be kept in the clerk's office for one year. At 9 the opening of the polls in each polling place the seals of the 10 packages shall be publicly broken, and the packages shall be 11 opened by the presiding election officer, and the books or blocks

12 of ballots shall be delivered to the ballot officers hereinafter pro-
13 vided for. The cards of instruction shall be immediately posted
14 at or in each voting shelf or compartment provided in accordance
15 with this act for the marking of the ballots, and not less than
16 three such cards and not less than five specimen ballots shall be
17 immediately posted in or about the polling rooms, outside the
18 guard rails. The second set of ballots shall be retained by the
19 respective clerks until they are called for or needed for the pur-
20 poses of voting, and, upon the requisition in writing of the pre-
21 siding election officer of any voting place, the second set of
22 ballots shall be furnished to such voting place in the manner
23 above provided as to the first set.

SECT. 19 In case the ballots to be furnished to any city or
2 town or voting place therein, in accordance with the provisions
3 of this act, shall fail for any reason to be duly delivered, or in
4 case after delivery they shall be destroyed, lost or stolen, it
5 shall be the duty of the clerk or municipal officers of such
6 city or town to cause other ballots to be prepared substantially
7 in the form of the ballots so wanting and to be furnished;
8 and upon receipt of such other ballots from him or them,
9 accompanied by a statement under oath that the same have
10 been so prepared and furnished by him, and that the original
11 ballots have so failed to be received or have been so destroyed, lost
12 or stolen, the election officers shall cause the ballots so substituted
13 to be used in lieu of the ballots wanting as above.

SECT. 20. The municipal officers, sixty days before any elec-
2 tion, may divide towns and wards of cities into convenient poll-
3 ing districts, which shall contain not less than three hundred
4 voters in each, defining the limits thereof by a writing under
5 their hands to be filed with and recorded by the city or town
6 clerks; and attested copies thereof shall forthwith be posted by
7 said clerks in not less than six public and conspicuous places in
8 said town or ward, and the same shall be published in one or
9 more of the newspapers, if any, published in said city or town,

10 thirty days at least before such election. They shall also ten
11 days before any such election appoint a presiding officer and
12 clerk for each polling place who shall perform the same duties at
13 elections as presiding officers and clerks of towns and wards
14 now perform. Any vacancy occurring after appointment may
15 be filled by the voters of said polling district as similar vacan-
16 cies are now filled. All such officers shall be sworn. The
17 board of registration of voters for any city in which a ward has
18 been so divided, and the municipal officers of any town which
19 has been so divided, shall in the manner now provided for
20 by law, prepare check lists of the qualified voters for each of
21 said polling districts, in lieu of the check lists now provided by
22 law for the entire town or ward, to be used as hereinafter pro-
23 vided, and all provisions of law applicable to check lists for
24 towns and wards shall apply to check lists for such polling dis-
25 tricts.

Additional Election Officers.

SECT. 21. The municipal officers of cities, towns and planta-
2 tions voting in accordance with the provisions of this act,
3 shall biennially in the month of May appoint clerks for
4 each polling place. For each polling place in cities and towns
5 of more than one thousand inhabitants, four clerks, and
6 for each polling place in plantations, and for each island
7 ward of the city of Portland and for the island district of
8 the town of Cumberland and for every town of less than one
9 thousand inhabitants two clerks shall be appointed. Said clerks
10 shall equally represent each of the political parties which cast the
11 largest number of votes in the State election next preceding their
12 appointment. Each of said officers shall be sworn to the faithful
13 performance of his duties, and shall hold office for two years
14 from the date of his appointment, and until a successor is
15 appointed and qualified, or he is removed. Such election officers
16 shall attend at the times and places designated for meetings in

17 their respective wards, towns or plantations for the election of
18 any national, State, county or ward officers, and for the deter-
19 mination of any question submitted to the qualified voters of any
20 city by lawful authority, and shall receive such reasonable com-
21 pensation for each day's actual service as the municipal officers,
22 of their respective cities, towns and plantations may determine.
23 No person shall be eligible to the position of election officer in
24 any ward, town or plantation where he is a candidate to be
25 voted for.

Two of the clerks in each polling place, one from each political
27 party, shall be detailed by the municipal officer to act
28 as ballot clerks. The two ballot clerks thus detailed and
29 appointed in each polling place shall have the charge of the
30 ballots therein, and shall furnish them to the voters in the manner
31 hereinafter set forth.

A duplicate list of the qualified voters in each ward, town or
33 plantation shall be prepared for the use of the ballot clerks, and
34 all the provisions of law relative to the preparation, furnishing
35 and preservation of check lists shall apply to such duplicate lists.

SECT. 22. The municipal officers in each city, town or plantation,
2 as aforesaid, shall cause the polling places therein to be suitably pro-
3 vided with a sufficient number of voting shelves or compartments, at
4 or in which voters may conveniently mark their ballots so that in
5 the marking thereof they may be screened from the observation
6 of others, and a guard rail shall be so constructed and placed
7 that only such persons as are inside said rail can approach within
8 six feet of the ballot boxes, and of such voting shelves or com-
9 partments. The arrangement shall be such that neither the bal-
10 lot boxes nor the voting shelves or compartments shall be hidden
11 from view of those just outside the said guard rail. The num-
12 ber of such voting shelves or compartments shall not be less than
13 one for every one hundred voters qualified to vote at such polling
14 place, and not less than three in any town, and not less than five
15 in any ward of a city. No persons other than the election officers

16 and voters admitted as hereinafter provided, shall be permitted
17 within said rail, except by authority of the election officers for
18 the purpose of keeping order and enforcing the law. Each vot-
19 ing shelf or compartment shall be kept provided with proper
20 supplies and conveniences for marking the ballots.

Preparation of Ballots.

SECT. 23. Any person desiring to vote shall give his name,
2 and, if requested so to do, his residence, to one of the ballot
3 clerks, who shall thereupon announce the same in a loud and dis-
4 tinct tone of voice, clear and audible, and if such name is found
5 upon the check-list by the ballot officer having charge thereof,
6 he shall likewise repeat the said name, and the voter shall be
7 allowed to enter the space enclosed by the guard-rail, as above
8 provided. The ballot clerk shall give him one, and only one
9 ballot, and his name shall be immediately checked on said list.

Besides the election officers, not more than two voters in excess
11 of the number of voting shelves or compartments provided shall
12 be allowed in said enclosed space at one time.

SECT. 24. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith,
2 and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the
3 voting shelves or compartments so provided and shall prepare his
4 ballot by marking in the appropriate margin or place, a cross [X]
5 as follows; he may place such mark opposite the name of a party
6 or political designation, in which case he shall be deemed to have
7 voted for all the persons named in the group under such party
8 or designation; or he may place such mark opposite the names
9 of the individual candidates of his choice for each office to be
10 filled, or he may fill in the name of the candidate of his
11 choice in the blank space provided therefor and place the mark
12 opposite as aforesaid in which cases, he shall be deemed to have
13 voted only for the individual candidates opposite whose names
14 he has placed such mark. In case of a question submitted to

15 the vote of the people he shall place such mark in the appro-
16 priate margin against the answer which he desires to give.
17 Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment the voter shall
18 fold his ballot, without displaying the marks thereon, in the
19 same way it was folded when received by him, and he shall keep
20 the same so folded until he has voted. He shall vote in the
21 manner now provided by law before leaving the enclosed space,
22 and shall deposit his ballot in the box with the official endorse-
23 ment uppermost. He shall mark and deposit his ballot without
24 undue delay and shall quit said enclosed space as soon as he has
25 voted. No such voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf
26 or compartment already occupied by another, nor to remain
27 within said enclosed space more than ten minutes, nor to occupy
28 a voting shelf or compartment for more than five minutes in case
29 all of such shelves or compartments are in use, and other voters
30 are waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election officer
31 whose name has been checked on the list of the ballot officers,
32 shall be allowed to re-enter said enclosed space during said elec-
33 tion. It shall be the duty of the presiding election officer for the
34 time being to secure the observance of the provisions of this
35 section.

SECT. 25. No person shall take or remove any ballot from
2 the polling place before the close of the polls. If any voter
3 spoils a ballot he may successively obtain others one at a time,
4 not exceeding three in all, upon returning each spoiled one. The
5 ballots thus returned shall be immediately cancelled, and together
6 with those not distributed to the voters, shall be preserved and
7 with the check-lists used, which shall be certified by the ballot-
8 clerks, to be such, shall be secured, sealed, and sent to the
9 several city and town clerks.

SECT. 26. Any voter who declares to the presiding election
2 officer that he cannot read his ballot, or that by blindness or other
3 physical disability he is unable to mark his ballot, shall, upon
4 request, receive the assistance of one or two of the election

5 officers in the marking thereof, such officer to be selected by the
6 voter, and such officer or officers shall certify on the out-
7 side thereof that it was so marked with his or their assistance,
8 and shall thereafter give no information regarding the same.
9 The presiding officer may, in his discretion, require such declara-
10 tion of disability to be made by the voter under oath before him,
11 and he is hereby qualified to administer the same.

SECT. 27. If a voter marks more names for any one office than
2 there are persons to be elected to such office, or if for any reason
3 it is impossible to determine the voter's choice for an office to be
4 filled, his ballot shall not be counted for such office. No ballot
5 without the official endorsement shall, except as herein otherwise
6 provided, be allowed to be deposited in the ballot box, and none
7 but ballots provided in accordance with the provisions of this
8 act shall be counted. Ballots not counted shall be marked
9 "defective" on the back thereof, and shall be preserved, as
10 required by section twenty-five.

Time of Opening and Closing the Polls.

SECT. 28. Meetings for the election of national, State,
2 county and municipal officers may be opened as early as eight
3 o'clock a. m., and in no case shall the polls be kept open later
4 than five o'clock p. m., and notice of the time of opening and
5 closing shall be given in the warrant calling the meeting.

Penalties.

SECT. 29. A voter who shall, except as herein otherwise
2 provided, allow his ballot to be seen by any person with an
3 apparent intention of letting it be known how he is about to vote,
4 or who shall make a false statement as to his inability to mark
5 his ballot, or any person who shall interfere, or attempt to in-
6 terfere with any voter when inside said enclosed space, or when

7 marking his ballot, or who shall endeavor to induce any voter
8 before voting to show how he marks or has marked his ballot,
9 shall be punished by fine of not less than five dollars, nor more
10 than one hundred dollars ; and election officers shall report any
11 person so doing to a police officer or constable, whose duty it
12 shall be to see that the offender is duly brought before the
13 proper court.

SECT. 30. Any person who shall, prior to an election, wilfully
2 deface or destroy any list of candidates posted in accordance
3 with the provisions of this act, or who, during an election, shall
4 wilfully deface, tear down, remove or destroy any card of instruc-
5 tion or specimen ballot printed or posted for the instruction of
6 voters, or who shall, during an election, wilfully remove or des-
7 troy any of the supplies or conveniences furnished to enable a
8 voter to prepare his ballot, or shall wilfully hinder the voting of
9 others, shall be punished by fine of not less than five dollars nor
10 more than one hundred dollars.

SECT. 31. Any person who shall falsely make or wilfully deface
2 or destroy any certificate of nomination or nomination paper, or
3 any part thereof or any letter of withdrawal ; or file any certifi-
4 cate of nomination or nomination paper or letter of withdrawal,
5 knowing the same or any part thereof to be falsely made ; or
6 suppress any certificate of nomination or nomination paper, or
7 any part thereof which has been duly filed ; or forge or falsely
8 make the official endorsement on any ballot ; or wilfully destroy
9 or deface any ballot, or wilfully delay the delivery of any ballots,
10 or shall take or remove any ballot outside of the inclosure pro-
11 vided for voting before the close of the polls, shall be punished
12 by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment
13 in the jail not more than one year, or by both such fine and
14 imprisonment.

SECT. 32. Any public officer upon whom a duty is imposed by
2 this act, who shall wilfully neglect to perform such duty, or who
3 shall wilfully perform it in such a way as to hinder the objects of

4 this act, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five, nor more
5 than one thousand, dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for not
6 more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECT. 33. No result of any election as shown by the checking
2 of ballots actually deposited in the ballot-box, except so far as
3 they are lawfully rejected under section twenty-seven, shall be set
4 aside as affected by any irregularity in the nomination, or in the
5 form of the ballot, or by reason of any failure to comply with any
6 of the provisions or this act, or by the misdescription of the resi-
7 dence of any candidate, or other person.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred the Bill, entitled "An Act to provide for printing and distributing ballots at the public expense and to regulate voting for State and city elections," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report the same in a new draft under title of "An Act to provide for printing and distributing ballots at the public expense and to regulate voting for State and city elections, and that it ought to pass.

S. J. WALTON,

F. A. POWERS,

A. R. SAVAGE,

F. C. PAYSON,

A. E. HERRICK,

BENJ. F. CHADBOURNE,

O. B. CLASON,

For Committee.

MINORITY REPORT.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the Bill, entitled "An Act to provide for printing and distributing ballots at the public expense and to regulate voting for State and city elections," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the same ought not to pass.

RYDER,

PEAKS,

STEARNS,

For Committee.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 25, 1891. }

Tabled, pending acceptance of either report, by Mr. CLASON of Gardiner, and reports and bill ordered printed.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*