

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 178.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT providing for elections with the Secret Ballot.

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

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the several cities,  
2 and of each of the towns and plantations in this state  
3 before the first day of            next to provide for each poll-  
4 ing place therein an ante-room connecting with the room  
5 where the voting is to take place, and to provide therein  
6 a table with separate compartments for ballots conspicu-  
7 ously marked Republican, Democratic, Prohibition, Popu-  
8 lists, Miscellaneous, and any other party name, in which  
9 the several parties shall place the ballots for the voters  
10 before the voting at any election shall begin. None but  
11 the regular ticket shall be put in any of the compartments  
12 save that marked "Miscellaneous."

Said cities and towns shall also provide a table or stand  
14 convenient for any elector to erase or add any name to the  
15 ballot he proposes to cast. They shall also procure official  
16 envelopes equal to the whole number of voters in such  
17 voting precinct and place them in the hands of the door-  
18 keeper of the ante-room, to be by them appointed.

SECT. 2. The elector, on entering the ante-room, is to  
2 receive an envelope from the door keeper, and when there-  
3 in, with both doors closed, he is to select his ballot from  
4 those placed upon the table as aforesaid, and (after altering  
5 it if he desires to) put it into the envelope, open the door  
6 to the voting room, enter it and vote by depositing the  
7 envelope containing the ballot selected as aforesaid.

SECT. 3. No elector shall vote any other ballot than  
2 one selected and taken from the table as aforesaid. No  
3 elector or person claiming to be such shall carry with him  
4 any ballot when he enters the ante-room for the purpose  
5 of voting or attempting to do so.

And no person shall circulate or have in his possession  
7 for the purpose of circulation any ballot in the vicinity of  
8 the polling place during or immediately before the voting  
9 begins. Any person guilty of either of the offences, in  
10 this section prohibited, shall be punished by loss of the  
11 right to vote for a period not exceeding ten years, or a  
12 fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or both at the dis-  
13 cretion of the court.

SECT. 4. Any elector or person claiming to be such  
2 admitted into the ante-room as aforesaid, who shall wan-  
3 tonly mutilate, disturb, disarrange, destroy or carry away  
4 any of the ballots upon the table, save such as he shall  
5 select for himself to vote, shall be punished by the loss of

6 the right to vote for a period not exceeding ten years, and  
7 by imprisonment not exceeding sixty days.

SECT. 5. If any elector cannot read or from physical  
2 inability needs assistance in selecting his ballot, he may  
3 have two persons appointed by the two leading parties (one  
4 by each) go into the ante-room with him and point out the  
5 different ballots, and allow him to select for himself the one  
6 he wishes to vote.

SECT. 6. The secretary of state shall have prepared and  
2 sent to the clerks of the several cities, towns and voting  
3 plantations in the state, suitable envelopes marked "Offi-  
4 cial," equal to double the number of voters therein at  
5 least thirty days before any election under this act, and  
6 such clerks shall place the necessary number of them in  
7 the hands of the presiding election officer of the respective  
8 voting places of the cities and towns prior to the day of  
9 election. As the envelope can be preserved for future  
10 use, the secretary of state shall, after the first supply,  
11 furnish them as they shall be ordered.

SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of the election officers to  
2 see that the crowd is kept a suitable distance from the door  
3 of the ante-room, and they shall see that the ballots therein  
4 are not displaced, disturbed or unlawfully carried away,  
5 and in case of a loss or deficiency of ballots on the table  
6 during the election, they may, if required, supply the  
7 deficiency.

SECT. 8. Upon the passage of this act, chapter 262 of  
2 the laws of 1893, denominated the Australian Ballot Law,  
3 is hereby repealed ; and all the provisions of the statutes relat-  
4 ing to elections not inconsistent with the provisions of this  
5 act in force at the time of the passage of the original Austra-

6 lian Ballot Act, chapter 102 of the laws of 1891, are hereby  
 7 revived, excepting that it shall be lawful for the ballots  
 8 placed upon the table in the ante-room to be headed with  
 9 the name of the party they are for.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Committee on the Judiciary to which was referred the bill, entitled "An Act providing for Election with the Secret Ballot," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the same be first printed and then be referred to the next Legislature.

NOBLE,  
 For the Committee.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
 February 20, 1895.

Read and accepted. Sent up for concurrence.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*

STATE OF MAINE.

Read and concurred.

IN SENATE, February 21, 1895.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*