

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Seventy-first Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 509

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THREE.

AN ACT relating to Political Caucuses.

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

Section 1. No person shall take part or vote in any caucus
2 of any political party unless qualified therefor by enrollment
3 as hereinafter provided.

Sect. 2. Any person who is a legal voter may enroll himself
2 as a member of any political party by filing with the clerk of
3 the town of which he is a legal voter a declaration in writing,
4 signed by him, substantially as follows: "I, ———, being a
5 legal voter of, ———, hereby elect to be enrolled as a member
6 of the ——— party. The following statement of name, resi-
7 dence, place of last enrollment if any, and party of last enroll-
8 ment, if any, is true."

A new enrollment may be made at any time, but the person
10 making such new enrollment shall not vote in any political
11 caucus within six months thereafter if he designates a differ-
12 ent political party from that named by him in the preceding
13 enrollment.

Sect. 3. The clerk of the town where the enrollment is
2 made, as above provided, shall receive and file the same,
3 indorsing thereon the date of filing, and shall record the name,
4 residence, place of last enrollment and date of filing, in a
5 separate book for the enrollment of members of each political
6 party, entering the names alphabetically.

Suitable blanks for such enrollment shall be provided by the
8 town clerks and in addition thereto they shall provide books
9 with proper headings, embodying the enrollment statements
10 above provided, which the person desiring to enroll may fill
11 out and sign, thereby enrolling himself with the same effect
12 as by filing such enrollment paper. Such books shall be
13 public records and shall at all times be open to public inspec-
14 tion.

Any voter not previously enrolled may enroll as aforesaid
16 up to the day of holding any caucus and may enroll himself
17 during said caucus by subscribing and making oath to the
18 following statement before the chairman of the caucus. "I,
19 ———, do solemnly swear that I am a qualified voter in this
20 town (or ward), and have the legal right to vote in the caucus
21 of the ——— party. I am a member of that political party
22 and intend to vote for its candidates at the election next
23 ensuing. I have not taken part or voted at the caucus of any
24 other political party in the six months last past."

The secretary of the caucus shall indorse thereon whether
26 the person subscribing and swearing to the same voted in
27 said caucus, and within one week thereafter the secretary shall
28 return said statement with the indorsement thereon to the
29 clerk of the town wherein such caucus is held, and said clerk

30 shall thereupon enroll said voter in the enrollment list of the
31 party designated by him. Said statement shall be preserved
32 as public records and shall be prima facie evidence in any
33 court that said person took said oath and voted in said caucus.

Sect. 5. To facilitate the first enrollment under this act the
2 town committees of each political party shall, on or before
3 January first, nineteen hundred and four, file with the town
4 clerk a list of the legal voters in their respective towns, who
5 are believed by them to be members of their party, giving the
6 exact residence of said voter as near as may be, and such
7 description of said voters, if necessary, as will serve to identify
8 them, and the same shall constitute a legal enrollment under
9 the provisions of this act, of all voters appearing upon the
10 list of only one of such committees, and not otherwise
11 enrolled, and the clerk shall record the same as required in
12 section three with the same effect as if made pursuant to the
13 provisions of section two. But the same may be annulled by
14 the personal enrollment of the voter under the provisions of
15 sections two or four.

Sect. 6. Caucuses and meetings of political parties held for
2 the purpose of nominating candidates or choosing delegates
3 to assemble in convention to nominate any person to any
4 public office whose name shall be placed on the final ballot,
5 unless held under the provisions of this act are hereby declared
6 to be unlawful, and no political party shall have its political
7 ticket placed on the final ballot unless the nominations of its
8 candidates are made in accordance with the provisions of this
9 act, provided that this shall not be construed as preventing
10 citizens' caucuses.

Sect. 7. All votes for the election of delegates to any politi-
2 cal convention for the nomination of a candidate for any
3 public office shall be by ballot, written or printed, on plain
4 paper.

Sect. 8. No person shall vote or offer to vote more than
2 once for any candidate or delegate or set of delegates in any
3 one caucus, nor shall he vote or offer to vote in any one caucus
4 held in any caucus district in which he shall not at the same
5 time be a legal voter. No person shall vote or offer to vote
6 in any caucus where candidates or delegates are to be chosen,
7 if he has already voted at the caucus of any other political
8 party in the past six months.

Sect. 9. No person whose right to vote is challenged shall
2 be allowed to vote until he shall have taken the following
3 oath, which shall be administered by the chairman of the
4 caucus: "You do solemnly swear that you are a registered
5 voter in this town (or ward), and have the legal right to vote
6 in this caucus; that you are a member of the political party
7 holding the same and intend to vote for its candidates at the
8 election next ensuing, and that you have not taken part or
9 voted at the caucus of any other political party in the six
10 months last past." The secretary of the caucus shall make
11 a record of the administration of such oath, as provided in
12 section four of this act, and with the same effect.

Sect. 10. Notices of caucuses, signed by the chairman and
2 secretary, shall be issued by each town committee not less
3 than seven days prior to the day on which the caucuses are to
4 be held. They shall be conspicuously posted in at least five
5 places on the highways of each voting precinct, and shall state
6 the place, day and hour of holding such caucuses. In case
7 voting is by check list a sufficient time shall be allowed for all
8 to vote, and the call for the caucus shall state the hours fixed
9 by the committee for the opening and closing of the polls.

Sect. 11. No person shall pay or offer to pay to any voter
2 any pecuniary compensation for said voters vote, or to influ-
3 ence his action at any caucus held under the provisions of this
4 act.

Sect. 12. Voting lists as used in the election next preceding
2 any caucus, shall be used as check lists, at such caucuses, if
3 the town committee shall so determine and provide in the call,
4 and such committee shall be required to provide for the use
5 of such list upon written request, filed with the chairman or
6 clerk of the committee, at any time before the call is posted,
7 of voters of the party, to the number of not less than ten in
8 towns of less than two thousand inhabitants; of not less than
9 twenty in towns of two thousand and not exceeding five thou-
10 sand; and of not less than fifty in towns of five thousand or
11 more inhabitants, according to the last official census of the
12 United States.

It shall be the duty of the officials having charge of such
14 voting lists to furnish certified copies thereof for use in
15 caucuses, upon application of such party committee, the
16 expense thereof to be paid as other expenses of registration
17 are now paid.

No person shall be deprived of his right to vote in such
19 caucus by reason of the fact that his name does not appear
20 on such lists, if he shall have become a legally qualified voter
21 of such precinct subsequent to the last election, and shall be
22 otherwise qualified to vote as herein provided.

Sect. 13. Any person who violates any of the provisions
2 hereof, or refuses to perform any duty required hereunder,
3 or makes a wilfully false statement of fact in his declaration
4 of enrollment, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five
5 hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six
6 months.

Sect. 14. This act shall take effect July first, nineteen hun-
2 dred and three; but shall not apply to caucuses held prior to
3 January first, nineteen hundred and four, nor shall it apply to
4 cities of more than thirty-five thousand inhabitants, nor to
5 cities wherein the calling and holding of caucuses are now
6 regulated by special law until such special law is repealed.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUGUSTA, March 20, 1903.

Reported by Mr. WEEKS of Fairfield, from Committee on the Judiciary,
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*