

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 11

House of Representatives, Jan. 24, 1911.

Tabled for printing by Mr. Davies pending reference to committee.

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend Section ten of Chapter Six of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter One Hundred Thirty-five of the Public Laws of 1905, and to amend Section Twenty-four of said Chapter Six of the Revised Statutes, relating to the regulation and conduct of elections.

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

Section 1. Section Ten of Chapter Six of the Revised
2 Statutes, as amended by Chapter One Hundred Thirty-five
3 of the Public Laws of 1905, is hereby further amended by
4 striking out in said Section the words "a blank space shall be
5 left after the name of the candidates for each different office
6 in which the voter may insert the name of any person for
7 whom he desires to vote as candidate for such office," and

8 substituting in their stead the following, to-wit:—‘A col-
9 umn marked “Blank Column,” with the same list of officers
10 as is contained in the party columns or groups, shall be
11 placed last on said ballot, and under each office designated
12 shall be left sufficient blank space in which the voter can
13 write the name of such person as he may wish to vote for,
14 if such name is not printed on the ballot; and to the left of
15 each party column or group, in addition to the square at the
16 head of said column or group, shall be placed squares for a
17 cross (X), so that opposite each name and office on the bal-
18 lot there may be a square in which may be placed by the
19 voter so desiring, the cross (X) as hereinafter provided,’
20 so that said Section as amended shall read as follows:—

‘Sect. 10. Every general ballot, or ballot intended for the
22 use of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with
23 the provisions of this chapter, shall contain the names and
24 residences, ward residences in city elections, of all candi-
25 dates whose nominations for any office specified in the ballot
26 have been duly made and not withdrawn in accordance here-
27 with, and the office for which they have been severally nom-
28 inated and shall contain no other names except that in case
29 of electors of president and vice-president of the United
30 States, the names of the candidates for president and vice-
31 president may be added to the party or political designa-
32 tion. The names of candidates nominated by any party shall
33 be grouped together upon the ballot. Above each group
34 shall be placed the name of the political party by which the

35 candidates comprising such group were placed in nomination,
36 or by the political designation as described in the certificate
37 of nomination, or nomination papers under a square. If
38 only one person be nominated by any party, or under any po-
39 litical designation, his name with the office for which he is
40 a candidate shall be printed by itself under the name of
41 such party or political designation. A column marked "Blank
42 Column," with the same list of officers as is contained in the
43 party columns or groups, shall be placed last on said ballot,
44 and under each office designated shall be left sufficient blank
45 space in which the voter can write the name of such person
46 as he may wish to vote for, if such name is not printed on
47 the ballot; and to the left of each party column or group,
48 in addition to the square at the head of said column or
49 group, shall be placed squares for a cross (X), so that op-
50 posite each name and office on the ballot there may be a
51 square in which may be placed, by the voter so desiring, the
52 cross (X) as hereinafter provided. Whenever the approval
53 of a constitutional amendment or other question is submitted
54 to the vote of the people such question or questions shall be
55 printed upon a separate ballot. The ballots shall be so print-
56 ed as to leave a blank space, above such amendment or ques-
57 tion so as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate
58 by a cross mark, (X) therein, his answers to the questions
59 submitted and on the ballot may be printed such words as
60 will aid the voter to do this as "yes;" "no," and the like. The
61 ballot shall be not less than four inches in width and not

62 less than six inches in length. Before distribution the bal-
63 lots shall be so folded in marked creases that their width
64 and length when folded shall be uniform. On the back and
65 outside, when folded, shall be printed "Official ballot for,"
66 followed by the designation of the polling place for which
67 the ballot is prepared, the date of the election and a fac-
68 simile of the signature of the secretary of state or city clerk
69 who has caused the ballot to be printed. Except as otherwise
70 herein provided, ballots shall be printed upon clean white
71 paper without any distinguishing mark or figures thereon.'

Sect. 2. Section Twenty-four of Chapter Six of the Re-
2 vised Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the follow-
3 ing words: "And if the voter shall desire to vote for any
4 person or persons, whose name or names are not printed as
5 candidates on the party group or ticket, he may erase any
6 name or names which are printed on the group or party
7 ticket, and under the name or names so erased he may fill
8 in the name or names of the candidates of his choice. Or if
9 the voter places and sticks on and over the name or names of
10 any candidate or candidates for any office or offices, a small
11 strip or strips of paper, commonly known as a sticker or
12 stickers, bearing thereon a name or names other than the
13 name or names of the candidate or candidates so erased or
14 covered up, the name or names of such candidate or candi-
15 dates so covered shall be considered to be erased from the
16 ballot, and the person or persons whose name or names shall
17 so appear on such strip or strips of paper so placed and stuck

18 on the ballot, shall be deemed to be voted for by the voter
19 as candidate or candidates for such office or offices,” and sub-
20 stituting instead thereof the following:—‘And if the voter
21 shall desire to vote for any person or persons, whose name or
22 names are not printed as candidates on the party group or
23 ticket, such voter shall make a cross (X) in the square or
24 squares at the left and before the name or names of such
25 person or persons, in another party group or ticket, for
26 whom he wishes to vote.

‘If a group or ticket does not contain the names of candi-
28 dates for all offices for which the voter shall desire to vote,
29 he shall, in addition to the cross (X) in the square above the
30 name of the party group or ticket for which he wishes to
31 vote, vote for candidates for such offices so omitted by
32 making a cross (X) at the left and before the names of the
33 candidates for such offices in another party group or ticket,
34 or by writing the name of the person for whom he wishes to
35 vote, if not printed upon the ballot, in the “blank column,”
36 referred to in Section Ten, under the title of the office,’ so
37 that said Section as amended shall read as follows:—

‘Section 24. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forth-
39 with, and without leaving the inclosed space, retire alone to
40 one of the voting shelves or compartments so provided, and
41 shall prepare his ballot by marking in the appropriate mar-
42 gin or place, a cross (X) as follows: He may place such
43 mark within the square above the name of the party group
44 or ticket, in which case he shall be deemed to have voted for

45 all the persons named in the group under such party or desig-
46 nation. And if the voter shall desire to vote for any person
47 or persons, whose name or names are not printed as candi-
48 dates on the party group or ticket, such voter shall make a
49 cross (X) in the square or squares at the left and before the
50 name or names of such person or persons, in another party
51 group or ticket, for whom he wishes to vote.

‘If a group or ticket does not contain the names of candi-
53 dates for all offices for which the voter shall desire to vote,
54 he shall, in addition to the cross (X) in the square above the
55 name of the party group or ticket for which he wishes to
56 vote, vote for candidates for such offices so omitted by mak-
57 ing a cross (X) at the left and before the names of the can-
58 didates for such offices in another party group or ticket, or
59 by writing the name of the person for whom he wishes to
60 vote, if not printed upon the ballot, in the “blank column,”
61 referred to in Section Ten, under the title of the office. Or
62 if the voter does not desire to vote for a person or persons
63 whose name or names are printed upon the party group or
64 ticket, he may erase such name or names with the effect that
65 the ballot shall not be counted for the candidate or candi-
66 dates whose names are so erased. In case of a question sub-
67 mitted to the vote of the people he shall place such mark in
68 the appropriate margin above the answer which he desires
69 to give. Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment,
70 the voter shall fold his ballot without displaying the marks
71 thereon, in the same way it was folded when received by

72 him, and he shall keep the same so folded until he has voted.
73 He shall vote in the manner provided by law before leaving
74 the enclosed space, and shall deposit his ballot in the box
75 with the official endorsement uppermost. He shall mark
76 and deposit his ballot without undue delay and shall quit
77 said inclosed space as soon as he has voted. No such voter
78 shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf or compartment
79 already occupied by another, or to remain within said in-
80 closed space more than ten minutes, or to occupy a voting
81 shelf or compartment for more than five minutes in case all
82 of such shelves or compartments are in use, and other voters
83 are waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election
84 officer or an election clerk, whose name has been checked on
85 the list of the ballot clerks, shall be allowed to re-enter said
86 enclosed space, during said election. The presiding election
87 officer or officers, for the time being, shall secure the ob-
88 servance of the provisions of this section.'

Sect. 3. All acts and parts of acts contrary to and incon-
2 sistent herewith are hereby repealed.