

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 187

In Senate, Feb. 15, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and one thousand copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Holt of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT to amend chapter seven 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. Chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby
2 amended by striking out section two, and inserting in place
3 thereof the following:

'Sect. 2. Every general ballot or ballots intended for the
2 use of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with
3 the provisions of this chapter, shall contain the names and
4 residences, ward residences in city elections, of all candidates
5 whose nominations for any office specified in the ballot have

6 been duly made and not withdrawn in accordance herewith,
7 and the office for which they have been severally nominated
8 and shall contain no other names except that in case of
9 electors of president and vice-president of the United States,
10 the names of the candidates for president and vice-president
11 may be added to the party or political designation.

“To the name of each candidate shall be added his party or
2 political designation expressed in accordance with section
3 five. No greater number of candidates for any office, bear-
4 ing the same designation, nominated otherwise than by nomi-
5 nation papers, shall be placed upon the official ballot than
6 to be elected.

“If the name of a political party is used in connection with
2 some other name or term as the designation of a candidate
3 nominated by a nomination paper, the words “nomination
4 paper,” or “nom. paper” shall be added to such political
5 designation.

“If a candidate shall receive the nomination of more than
2 one party or more than one political designation for the
3 same office, he may, within the seventy-two hours next suc-
4 ceeding five o'clock of the last day fixed for the filing of
5 nomination papers, by a writing delivered to the officer or
6 board required by law to prepare the official ballot, direct
7 in what order the several nominations or political designa-
8 tions shall be added to his name upon the official ballot; and
9 such directions shall be followed by the said officer or board.
10 If, during said time, said candidate shall neglect to direct

11 in writing as aforesaid, then said officer or board shall add
12 said nominations or political designations to the name of
13 said candidate upon the official ballot in such order as said
14 officer or board shall determine.

'The names of candidates for every office, except the names
2 of candidates for presidential electors, shall be arranged
3 under the designation of the office in alphabetical order
4 according to the surnames; but the names of candidates for
5 the same office but for different terms of service therein
6 shall be arranged in groups according to the length of their
7 respective terms. Blank spaces shall be left at the end of
8 the list of candidates for each different office, equal to the
9 number to be elected thereto, in which the voter may insert
10 the name of any person not printed on the ballot for whom
11 he desires to vote for such office. If the approval of a con-
12 stitutional amendment of any other question is submitted
13 to the voters, it shall be printed on the ballot after the names
14 of the candidates.

'Ballots shall be so printed as to give each voter an oppor-
2 tunity to designate by a cross (X) in a square at the right
3 of the name and designation of each candidate, and at the
4 right of each question, his choice of candidates and his
5 answer to such question; and upon the ballots may be printed
6 such directions as will aid the voter; for example, "vote for
7 one," "vote for two," "yes," "no," and the like.

'The ballot shall not be less than four inches in width and
2 not less than six inches in length. Before distribution the

3 ballots shall be so folded in marked creases that their width
4 and length when folded shall be uniform. On the back and
5 outside of each ballot, when folded, shall be printed the
6 words, "Official Ballot for," followed by the designation of
7 the polling place for which the ballot is prepared, the date
8 of the election and a facsimile of the signature of the secre-
9 tary of state or city clerk who has caused the ballots to be
10 printed. Except as otherwise herein provided, ballots shall
11 be printed upon clean white paper without any distinguish-
12 ing mark or figures thereon.'

Sect. 2. Said chapter six of the revised statutes is further
2 amended by striking out section sixteen and inserting in
3 place thereof the following:

'Sect. 16. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forth-
2 with, and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to
3 one of the voting shelves or compartments so provided and
4 shall, except in the case of voting for presidential electors,
5 prepare his ballot by making a cross (X) in the square at
6 the right of the name of each candidate for whom he intends
7 to vote or by inserting the name of such candidate in the
8 space provided therefor and making a cross in the square
9 at the right; and, upon a question submitted to the vote of
10 the people, by making a cross in the square at the right of
11 the answer which he intends to give.

'A voter may vote for an entire group of candidates for
2 presidential electors by making a cross (X) in the square
3 at the right of the party or political designation immediately

4 above such group. If a voter does not intend to vote for
5 any one candidate in the group he may erase his name, and
6 the cross shall count as a vote for each of the other candi-
7 dates in such group. If the voter desires to vote for an-
8 other person in place of a candidate whose name he has
9 erased, he may insert his name in one of the blank spaces
10 and make a cross in the square at the right thereof. A voter
11 who does not mark for any group of candidates may vote
12 for candidates for electors, up to the number to be elected,
13 by inserting names in the blank spaces at the end of the
14 groups of electors and marking a cross in the square at the
15 right of each name so inserted.'