

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 63

H. P. 247

House of Representatives, January 19, 1939.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Richardson of Strong by request.

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S T A T E   O F   M A I N E

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to Rotating Names of Candidates on Ballots at Primary Elections.**

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

**R. S., c. 7, § 8, amended.** Section 8 of chapter 7 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**‘Sec. 8. Ballots, how made up; order of offices; names to be in alphabetical order; printing, color, and size of ballots.** Every ballot which shall be printed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall contain the names and residences of all candidates whose nominations have been duly proposed hereunder for any office specified in the ballot, and not withdrawn in accordance herewith, and the office for which they have been severally proposed through the nomination papers filed as aforesaid, and shall contain no other names. The order of offices shall be the same as in the regular September election, except that when nominations for United States senators are to be made, said office of United States senator shall be first on said ballots. The name of each person for whom as a candidate for nomination a valid nomination has been filed shall be printed on the ballot in but one place. The names of the candidates for nomination to each office shall be arranged under the designation of the office in alphabetical order, according to surnames. **Provided, in every case where 2 or more persons**

are candidates for nomination to the same office, the number of ballot forms required shall be divided into sets equal to the greatest number of candidates for any one office on said ballot, and the names of said candidates for each office when the number of said candidates is equal to 2 or more shall, beginning with a form arranged in alphabetical order as aforesaid, be rotated by removing one name from the top list for each office and by placing said name at the bottom of said list for each successive set of ballot form. As nearly as possible, an equal number of ballots of each set shall be delivered to each voting place or precinct. There shall be left at the end of each list of candidates for nomination to each office a blank space or spaces, in which the voter may write or paste the name or names of any person or persons not printed on the ballot for whom he desires to vote as a nominee or nominees for such office, the number of blank spaces so left to be equal to the number of nominees to be selected for such office. The ballot shall be printed so as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate his choice for candidates for nomination by making a cross (X) to the right of the name of each candidate he wishes to vote for as a nominee to each office; and on the ballot shall be printed such words as will aid the voters to do this, "Vote for one," "Vote for two," and the like. At the top of the ballot there shall be printed in capital letters, "make a cross (X) in the square to the right of the name of the person you wish to vote for. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office. Add names by writing or pasting stickers in blank spaces and mark cross (X) to right of such names. Do not erase names." The ballots shall be printed on tinted paper, of a separate tint for each political party, white for the party casting the highest vote for governor at the last preceding state election, yellow for the 2nd highest, blue for the 3rd highest, green for the 4th highest, other colors for others if any, and brown for specimen or sample ballots. They shall be of uniform size for all political parties, and folded before distribution in marked creases so as to be of uniform length and width and conceal the interior contents. All ballots furnished to any municipality by the secretary of state, as required by law for use at any primary election, shall be printed upon the outside so that "Official Nominating Ballot," the polling place for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the primary election and the facsimile of the signature of the secretary of state shall appear on all sides of the folded ballot.'