

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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H. P. 1407

House of Representatives, February 11, 1941.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 650 copies ordered printed.
Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lambert of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Referendum Ballots.

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

R. S., c. 8, § 16, amended. Section 16 of chapter 8 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 16. How voters shall prepare ballot; manner of voting. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith, and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the voting shelves or compartments so provided and shall prepare his ballot by marking in the appropriate place a cross (X) as follows: He may place such mark within the square above the name of the party group or ticket, in which case he shall be deemed to have voted for all the persons named in the group under such party or designation. And if the voter shall desire to vote for any person or persons, whose name or names are not printed as candidates in such party group or ticket, he may erase any name or names which are printed therein and place a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name of the candidate of his choice in any other party group or ticket. Or, as an optional method of voting, the voter may omit the cross (X) in the party square and place a cross (X) in the blank square at the right of the name of each candidate he wishes to vote for. If the voter wishes to vote for a candidate

whose name is not on the ballot he may write the name under the name of the candidate erased. Or if the voter does not desire to vote for a person or persons whose name or names are printed upon the party group or ticket, he may erase such name or names with the effect that the ballot shall not be counted for the candidate or candidates whose names are so erased. Stickers shall not be counted unless used to fill a vacancy or correct an error in the printed ballot. In case of a question submitted to the vote of the people he shall place such mark in the appropriate margin above the answer which he desires to give. Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment, the voter shall fold his ballot without displaying the marks thereon, in the same way it was folded when received by him, and he shall keep the same so folded until he has voted. He shall vote in the manner provided by law before leaving the enclosed space and shall deposit his ballot in the box with the official endorsement uppermost, **and in case he has received a ballot containing a question submitted to the people, he shall deposit likewise such ballot at the same time in the same ballot box.** He shall mark and deposit his ballot without undue delay, and shall quit said inclosed space as soon as he has voted. No such voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf or compartment occupied by another, or to remain within said enclosed space more than 10 minutes, or to occupy a voting shelf or compartment for more than 5 minutes in case all of such shelves or compartments are in use and other voters are waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election officer or an election clerk, whose name has been checked on the list of the ballot clerk, shall be allowed to reenter said enclosed space during said election. The presiding election officer or officers, for the time being, shall secure the observance of the provisions of this section.'