

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 188

H. P. 256

House of Representatives, January 28, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. McFee of Richmond.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-THREE

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AN ACT Relating to the Election of Town Officers.

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

**R. S., c. 5, § 44, amended.** Section 44 of chapter 5 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**‘Sec. 44. Form of ballots and by whom prepared; selectmen; number to be elected to be determined by voters; how their names shall be printed on the ballot; questions to be submitted to voters.** All ballots for use in such elections shall be prepared by the town clerk. Every general ballot, or ballot intended for the use of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with the provisions of said sections 38 to 52 inclusive, shall contain the names of all candidates whose nominations for any offices specified in the ballot have been duly made, and shall contain no other names. The names of candidates for each office shall be arranged under the designation of the office in alphabetical order according to surnames, but candidates for selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor respectively, shall be named and designated in the ballot in as many groups as the town shall by vote have determined there are to be individuals on any such board. Previous to balloting the voters may determine by majority whether to elect 3, 5, or 7 selectmen, assessors, or overseers of the poor respectively. **Provided, that if the town shall have fixed the number and term of such officers under the**

**provisions of section 13, the ballot shall conform thereto.** Without such determination 3 shall be elected. **The candidate or candidates** ~~The three (or if so determined five or seven)~~ having the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. There shall be left at the end of the list of candidates for each different office as many blank spaces as there are persons to be elected to such office, in which the voter may insert the name of any person not printed on the ballot for whom he desires to vote as candidate to such office. Whenever any question is submitted to the vote of the people of the town, in accordance with a statute providing for such submission, such question shall be printed upon the ballot after the list of candidates. The ballots shall be so printed as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross mark (X) in a square at the right of the name and designation of each candidate, his choice of candidates and his answer to the question submitted, and in the ballot may be printed such words as will aid the voter to do this, as "vote for one," "vote for three," "yes," "no," and the like. Before distribution the ballots shall be so folded in marked creases as to measure when folded not less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  nor more than 5 inches in width and not less than 6 nor more than  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. On the back and outside, when folded, shall be printed "Official Ballot for the Town of . . . . .," and the date of election, and the signature or facsimile of the signature of the town clerk.'