

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 650

H. P. 594

House of Representatives, February 10, 1955.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Denbow of Lubec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Eliminating Voting a Straight Party Ticket in Elections.

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

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

‘Sec. 5. What the ballot shall contain and how printed; size of ballot. Every general ballot or ballot intended for the use of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, shall contain the names and residences, ward residences in city elections, of all candidates whose nominations for any office specified in the ballot have been duly made and not withdrawn in accordance herewith, and the office for which they have been severally nominated, and shall contain no other names except that in case of electors of president and vice-president of the United States, the names of the candidates for president and vice-president may be added to the party or political designation. The names of candidates nominated by any party shall be grouped together upon the ballot. ~~Above each group shall be placed the name of the political party by which the candidates comprising such group were placed in nomination, or the political designation as described in the certificate of nomination, or nomination papers, under a square each side of which shall be not less than 2 inches; above such square shall be printed the following words in plain letters: To vote a straight ticket mark a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) within this square.~~ Below the name of each candidate for any office in any group there shall be left a blank space in which the voter may write the name of any person for whom he desires to vote as a candidate for such office; at the right of each name and at the right of the blank space above provided for, there shall be left a blank square in which the voter may mark a cross (X) or a check mark (✓);

under the name of the office to be voted for, when there is more than 1 office to be filled, there shall be printed the words "Vote for not more than 2," "Vote for not more than 3" and so forth in accordance with the number of offices to be filled as the case may be. If only 1 person be nominated by any party, or under any political designation, his name with the office for which he is a candidate shall be printed by itself under the name of such party or political designation. Whenever the approval of a constitutional amendment or other question is submitted to the vote of the people such question or questions shall be printed upon a separate ballot. The ballots shall be so printed as to leave a blank space above such amendment or question so as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross (X) or a check mark (✓), therein, his answers to the questions submitted, and on the ballot may be printed such words as will aid the voter to do this as "yes" or "no" and the like. The ballot shall be not less than 4 inches in width and not less than 6 inches in length. Before distribution, the ballots shall be so folded in marked creases that their width and length when folded shall be uniform. On the back and outside, when folded, shall be printed "Official Ballot for," followed by the designation of the voting place for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the election and a facsimile of the signature of the city clerk who has caused the ballot to be printed. All ballots furnished to any municipality by the secretary of state, as required by law for use at any state election, shall be printed upon the outside so that "Official Ballot for," the designation of the voting place for which the ballot is prepared, the date of the election and the facsimile of the signature of the secretary of state shall appear on all sides of the folded ballot. Except as otherwise herein provided, ballots for use in elections of senators and representatives to the congress of the United States, state and county officers, and senators and representative to the state legislature shall be printed upon clean white paper and ballots to be used in elections as to constitutional and referendum questions submitted to the vote of the people shall be printed upon tinted paper, the color or tint of which may be determined by the secretary of state, without any distinguishing mark or figure thereon. Whenever a cross (X) has heretofore been required, including referendum elections held pursuant to private and special acts, a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) shall both be valid.'