

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# N I N E 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. 74**

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S. P. 46

In Senate, January 20, 1959.

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Ross of Sagadahoc.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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### AN ACT To Eliminate the Straight Party Ballot in Elections.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 5, § 5, amended.** The 3rd sentence of section 5 of chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

~~'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 (V) within this square.'~~

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 5, § 35, amended.** The 1st and 3rd sentences of section 35 of chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

~~'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 and shall prepare his ballot by marking in the appropriate place a cross (X) or a check mark (V) as follows: He may place such mark within the square above the name of a 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.'~~

~~'Or as an optional method of voting the The voter may omit the cross (X) or the check mark (V) in the party square and place a cross (X) or a check mark (V) in the blank square at the right of the name of each candidate he wishes to vote for.'~~

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 5, § 40, amended.** The last sentence of section 40 of chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'No marks, other than those authorized by law, shall be placed upon the ballot by the voter; ~~but no. No~~ ballot, after having been received by the election officers, shall be rejected as defective because of marks, other than those authorized by law, having been placed upon it by the voter, unless such marks are deemed to have been made with fraudulent intent ~~and no ballot shall be rejected as defective because of any irregularity in the form of the cross or the check mark in the square at the head of the party column unless such irregularity is deemed to have been intentional and made with a fraudulent purpose.~~