

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1903.

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1903.

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CHAP. 214**Chapter 214.**

An Act relating to Political Caucuses.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

Enrollment  
a necessary  
qualification  
for voting  
at caucus.

Section 1. No person shall take part or vote in any caucus of any political party unless qualified therefor by enrollment as hereinafter provided.

Enrollment,  
how made.

Section 2. Any person who is a legal voter may enroll himself as a member of any political party by filing with the clerk of the town of which he is a legal voter a declaration in writing, signed by him, substantially as follows: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a legal voter of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby elect to be enrolled as a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ party. The following statement of name, residence, place of last enrollment if any, and party of last enrollment if any, is true."

--new en-  
rollment.

A new enrollment may be made at any time, but the person making such new enrollment shall not vote in any political caucus within six months thereafter if he designates a different political party from that named by him in the preceding enrollment.

Clerk shall  
record  
enrollment.

Section 3. The clerk of the town where the enrollment is made, as above provided, shall receive and file the same, indorsing thereon the date of filing, and shall record the name, residence, place of last enrollment and date of filing, in a separate book for the enrollment of members of each political party, entering the names alphabetically.

--town clerks  
shall provide  
stationery.

Suitable blanks for such enrollment shall be provided by the town clerks and in addition thereto they shall provide books with proper headings, embodying the enrollment statements above provided, which the person desiring to enroll may fill out and sign, thereby enrolling himself with the same effect as by filing such enrollment paper. Such books shall be public records and shall at all times be open to public inspection.

--records  
shall be open  
to public.

Any voter not previously enrolled may enroll as aforesaid up to the day of holding any caucus and may enroll himself during said caucus by subscribing and making oath to the following statement before the chairman of the caucus. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I am a qualified voter in this town, or ward, and have the legal right to vote in the caucus of the \_\_\_\_\_ party. I am a member of that political party and intend to vote for its candidates at the election next ensuing. I have not taken part or voted at the caucus of any other political party in the six months last past."

--enrollment,  
how made  
during  
caucus.

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The secretary of the caucus shall indorse thereon whether the person subscribing and swearing to the same voted in said caucus, and within one week thereafter the secretary shall return said statement with the indorsement thereon to the clerk of the town wherein such caucus is held, and said clerk shall thereupon enroll said voter in the enrollment list of the party designated by him. Said statement shall be preserved as public records and shall be prima facie evidence in any court that said person took said oath and voted in said caucus.

--duty of secretary of caucus, when enrollment is made in caucus.

Section 5. To facilitate the first enrollment under this act the town committees of each political party shall, on or before January first, nineteen hundred and four, file with the town clerk a list of the legal voters in their respective towns, who are believed by them to be members of their party, giving the exact residence of said voter as near as may be, and such description of said voters, if necessary, as will serve to identify them, and the same shall constitute a legal enrollment under the provisions of this act, of all voters appearing upon the list of only one of such committees, and not otherwise enrolled, and the clerk shall record the same as required in section three with the same effect as if made pursuant to the provisions of section two. But the same may be annulled by the personal enrollment of the voter under the provisions of sections two or four.

Preliminary enrollment by town committees of each political party.

Section 6. Caucuses and meetings of political parties held for the purpose of nominating candidates or choosing delegates to assemble in convention to nominate any person to any public office whose name shall be placed on the final ballot, unless held under the provisions of this act are hereby declared to be unlawful, and no political party shall have its political ticket placed on the final ballot unless the nominations of its candidates are made in accordance with the provisions of this act, provided that this shall not be construed as preventing citizens' caucuses.

Caucuses must be held under provisions of this act.

Section 7. All votes for the election of delegates to any political convention for the nomination of a candidate for any public office shall be by ballot, written or printed, on plain paper.

--exceptions.

Section 8. No person shall vote or offer to vote more than once for any candidate or delegate or set of delegates in any one caucus, nor shall he vote or offer to vote in any one caucus held in any caucus district in which he shall not at the same time be a legal voter. No person shall vote or offer to vote in any caucus where candidates or delegates are to be chosen, if he has already voted at the caucus of any other political party in the past six months.

Votes for election of delegates shall be by written or printed ballot.  
Restrictions on voting.

Section 9. No person whose right to vote is challenged shall be allowed to vote until he shall have taken the following oath, which shall be administered by the chairman of the caucus:

Oath to be taken by challenged voters.

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"You do solemnly swear that you are a registered voter in this town or ward, and have the legal right to vote in this caucus; that you are a member of the political party holding the same and intend to vote for its candidates at the election next ensuing, and that you have not taken part or voted at the caucus of any other political party in the six months last past." The secretary of the caucus shall make a record of the administration of such oath, as provided in section four of this act, and with the same effect.

Notices of caucuses shall be issued seven days prior to caucuses.

Section 10. Notices of caucuses, signed by the chairman and secretary, shall be issued by each town committee not less than seven days prior to the day on which the caucuses are to be held. They shall be conspicuously posted in at least five places on the highways of each voting precinct, and shall state the place, day and hour of holding such caucuses. In case voting is by check list a sufficient time shall be allowed for all to vote, and the call for the caucus shall state the hours fixed by the committee for the opening and closing of the polls.

Bribery forbidden.

Section 11. No person shall pay or offer to pay to any voter any pecuniary compensation for said voters vote, or to influence his action at any caucus held under the provisions of this act.

Check lists, provisions as to use of.

Section 12. Voting lists as used in the election next preceding any caucus, shall be used as check lists, at such caucuses, if the town committee shall so determine and provide in the call, and such committee shall be required to provide for the use of such list upon written request, filed with the chairman or clerk of the committee, at any time before the call is posted, of voters of the party, to the number of not less than ten in towns of less than two thousand inhabitants; of not less than twenty in towns of two thousand and not exceeding five thousand; and of not less than fifty in towns of five thousand or more inhabitants, according to the last official census of the United States.

It shall be the duty of the officials having charge of such voting lists to furnish certified copies thereof for use in caucuses, upon application of such party committee, the expense thereof to be paid as other expenses of registration are now paid.

No person shall be deprived of his right to vote in such caucus by reason of the fact that his name does not appear on such lists if he shall have become a legally qualified voter of such precinct subsequent to the last election, and shall be otherwise qualified to vote as herein provided.

Penalty for violation of provisions of this act.

Section 13. Any person who violates any of the provisions hereof, or refuses to perform any duty required hereunder, or makes a wilfully false statement of fact in his declaration of

enrollment, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Section 14. This act shall take effect July first, nineteen hundred and three; but shall not apply to caucuses held prior to January first, nineteen hundred and four, nor shall it apply to cities of more than thirty-five thousand inhabitants, nor to cities wherein the calling and holding of caucuses are now regulated by special law until such special law is repealed.

When this act shall take effect.

Section 15. This act shall not apply to towns of less than two thousand inhabitants.

Shall not apply to towns of less than 2000 inhabitants.

Approved March 28, 1903.

## Chapter 215.

An Act in relation to Agricultural Societies.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

Section 1. Section eleven of chapter fifty-eight of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby amended by striking out that part of said section which relates to the Penobscot and Aroostook Union Agricultural Society, the Waldo and Penobscot Agricultural Society, and the Ossipee Valley Union Agricultural Society, and the appropriations named for each, and by other changes therein, so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

Section 11 of chapter 58, R. S. as amended, further amended.

Section 11. There shall be appropriated annually from the state treasury, beginning in nineteen hundred and four, a sum of money not exceeding one cent and one-quarter to each inhabitant of the state, which shall be divided among the legally incorporated agricultural societies of the state not provided for by special enactment, according to the amount of premiums and gratuities actually paid in full by said societies, provided, that the stipend shall herewith be based entirely upon the premiums and gratuities actually paid in full on exhibition stocks and products, and provided that no society shall receive from the state a sum greater than that actually raised and paid by the society for said purposes. Provided, also, that each of the said societies shall cause the prohibitory liquor law to be enforced on all grounds over which they have control, and not allow gambling in any form or games of chance on said grounds.'

Stipend for agricultural societies.

—basis of stipend.

—prohibitory liquor law shall be enforced on all grounds controlled by society.

Section 2. Section twelve of chapter fifty-eight of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "and also a certificate from the secretary of the board of agriculture that

Section 12 of chapter 58, R. S., amended.