

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2023

CHAPTER 389
S.P. 393 - L.D. 922

**An Act to Clarify Required
Disclosure of Personally
Identifying Information for
Certain Nominating Petitions**

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§1, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. B, §41, is amended to read:

1. Content. A primary petition must contain the name of only one candidate and that candidate's ~~place~~ municipality of residence, party, office sought and electoral division. A primary petition may contain as many separate papers as necessary and may contain the candidate's consent required by section 336.

A. When 2 United States Senators are to be nominated, the primary petition must contain the term of office sought by the candidate.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §336, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §24, is further amended to read:

3. Residence and party declared. The consent must contain a declaration of the candidate's place of residence and party designation and a statement that the candidate meets the qualifications of the office the candidate seeks, which the candidate must verify by oath or affirmation before a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations that the declaration is true. If, pursuant to the challenge procedures in section 337, any part of the declaration is found to be false by the Secretary of State, the consent and the primary petition are void. Upon written request by the candidate to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may treat the candidate's street name and number as confidential as long as the street name and number are not material to the candidate's qualifications to serve.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §11, is further amended to read:

1. Content. A nomination petition must contain the name of only one candidate, the candidate's ~~place~~ municipality of residence, the office sought and electoral division. A nomination petition may contain as many separate papers as necessary and may contain the candidate's consent required by section 355. It may also contain the candidate's political designation. This designation may not exceed 3 words in length, may not incorporate the candidate's name or the designation or an abbreviation of the designation of a party that is qualified to nominate candidates by primary election and may not consist of or comprise language that is obscene, contemptuous, profane or prejudicial, promotes abusive or unlawful activity or violates any other provision of

the laws of this State with respect to names. A candidate who intends to form a new party about that person's candidacy must use the proposed party's designation.

A. When 2 United States Senators are to be nominated, the nomination petition must contain the term of office sought by the candidate.

B. The names of presidential electors must be placed on the petition as a slate. The names of the candidates for President and Vice President must be placed on a petition for the nomination of presidential electors.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §355, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §12, is further amended to read:

3. Qualifications declared. The consent must contain a declaration of the candidate's place of residence and the fact that the candidate has not been enrolled in a party qualified to participate in a primary or general election after March 1st of that election year and that the candidate meets the qualifications of the office the candidate seeks. The candidate must verify by oath or affirmation before a notary public or other person authorized by law to administer oaths or affirmations that the declaration is true. If, pursuant to the challenge procedures in section 356, any part of the declaration is found to be false by the Secretary of State, the consent and the nomination petition are void. The candidate must remain unenrolled from March 1st until the general election in order to remain qualified as an unenrolled candidate for the office sought in the nomination petition in that election year. Upon written request by the candidate to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may treat the candidate's street name and number as confidential as long as the street name and number are not material to the candidate's qualifications to serve.

A. Candidates for the office of county charter commission need not verify by oath or affirmation that they are not enrolled in a party.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 390
H.P. 581 - L.D. 934

**An Act to Amend the Laws
Governing Damages Awarded
for Wrongful Death**

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

Sec. 1. 18-C MRSA §1-108, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. F, §1 and PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

B. "Reference base index" means ~~the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2017;~~

(1) With respect to calculations made under this section relating to dollar amounts stated in sections 2-102, 2-402, 2-403, 2-405 and 3-1201, the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2017; and

(2) With respect to calculations made under this section relating to the dollar amount stated in section 2-807 for loss of comfort, society and companionship, the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2023.

Sec. 2. 18-C MRSA §1-108, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Automatic adjustment of amounts for inflation. The dollar amounts stated in sections 2-102, 2-402, 2-403, 2-405 and 3-1201 apply to the estate of a decedent who died in or after 2017, but for the estate of a decedent who died after 2018, these dollar amounts must be increased or decreased if the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of death exceeds or is less than the reference base index. For a wrongful death action brought with respect to a person who died after 2023, the dollar amount stated in section 2-807, subsection 2 for loss of comfort, society and companionship must be adjusted if the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of death exceeds or is less than the reference base index. The amount of any increase or decrease is computed by multiplying each dollar amount by the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of death exceeds or is less than the reference base index. If any increase or decrease produced by the computation is not a multiple of \$100, the increase or decrease is rounded down, if an increase, or up, if a decrease, to the next multiple of \$100, but for the purpose of section 2-405, the periodic installment amount is the lump-sum amount divided by 12. If With respect to calculations made under this section relating to dollar amounts stated in sections 2-102, 2-402, 2-403, 2-405 and 3-1201, if the Consumer Price Index for 2018 is changed by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the reference base index must be revised using the rebasing factor reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or other comparable data if a rebasing factor is not reported. With respect to calculations made under this section relating to the dollar amount stated in section 2-807 for loss of comfort, society and companionship, if the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2023 is changed by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the reference base index must be revised using the rebasing factor reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or other comparable data if a rebasing factor is not reported.

Sec. 3. 18-C MRSA §2-807, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 198, §1 and c. 417, Pt. A, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Wrongful death action; damages; limitations.

Every wrongful death action must be brought by and in the name of the personal representative or special administrator of the deceased person, and is distributable, after payment for funeral expenses and the costs of recovery including attorney's fees, directly to the decedent's heirs without becoming part of the probate estate, except as may be specifically provided in this subsection. The amount recovered in every wrongful death action, except as specifically provided in this subsection, is for the exclusive benefit of the deceased's heirs to be distributed to the individuals and in the proportions as provided under the intestacy laws of this State in sections 2-101 to 2-113. The jury may give damages as it determines a fair and just compensation with reference to the pecuniary injuries resulting from the death. Damages are payable to the estate of the deceased person only if the jury specifically makes an award payable to the estate for reasonable expenses of medical, surgical and hospital care and treatment and for reasonable funeral expenses or, in the case of a settlement, the settlement documents specifically provide for such an allocation to the estate for the same. In addition, the jury may give damages not exceeding ~~\$750,000~~ \$1,000,000 ~~adjusted for inflation as provided in section 1-108~~ for the loss of comfort, society and companionship of the deceased, including any damages for emotional distress arising from the same facts as those constituting the underlying claim, to the persons for whose benefit the action is brought. The jury may also give punitive damages not exceeding ~~\$250,000~~ \$500,000. An action under this section must be commenced within ~~2~~ 3 years after the decedent's death, except that if the decedent's death is caused by a homicide, the action may be commenced within 6 years of the date the personal representative or special administrator of the decedent discovers that there is a just cause of action against the person who caused the homicide. If a claim under this section is settled without an action having been commenced, the amount paid in settlement must be distributed as provided in this subsection. A settlement on behalf of minor children is not valid unless approved by the court, as provided in Title 14, section 1605.

See title page for effective date.