



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 656

H.P. 425

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

**An Act to Prevent Electioneering on General Election Ballots by
Candidates Nominated by Petition**

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MORRIS of Turner.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GREENWOOD of Wales.

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

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

4 **1. Content.** A nomination petition must contain the name of only one candidate, the
5 candidate's place of residence, the office sought and electoral division. A nomination
6 petition may contain as many separate papers as necessary and may contain the candidate's
7 consent required by section 355. It may also contain the candidate's political designation.
8 ~~This designation may not exceed 3 words in length, may not incorporate the candidate's~~
9 ~~name or the designation or an abbreviation of the designation of a party that is qualified to~~
10 ~~nominate candidates by primary election and may not consist of or comprise language that~~
11 ~~is obscene, contemptuous, profane or prejudicial, promotes abusive or unlawful activity or~~
12 ~~violates any other provision of the laws of this State with respect to names. as either~~
13 "unenrolled" or "no party designation." A candidate who intends to form a new party about
14 that person's candidacy must use the proposed party's designation.

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

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

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill removes the ability for a candidate seeking nomination by petition to select a
22 political designation according to specific guidelines and instead allows a candidate
23 seeking nomination by petition to select either "unenrolled" or "no party designation."