



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1108

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H.P. 704

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

**An Act to Require All Candidates for Any State or County Office to  
Follow the Same Rules for Submission of Signatures Regarding  
Deadlines and the Number of Signatures**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PARRY of Arundel.  
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and  
Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, COLLINGS of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland,  
RISEMAN of Harrison, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, Senator: HICKMAN  
of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **2. By whom signed.** A nomination petition may be signed only by unenrolled voters  
5 of the electoral division ~~which~~ that is to make the nomination, except that nomination  
6 petitions for presidential electors may be signed by any Maine voter. Other signatures are  
7 void.

8 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §6, is further  
9 amended to read:

10 **5. Number of signatures required.** Nomination petitions must be signed by the  
11 following numbers of voters:

12 A. For a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector, at least 4,000 and not  
13 more than 5,000 voters;

14 B. For a candidate for Governor, at least ~~4,000~~ 2,000 and not more than ~~5,000~~ 2,500  
15 voters;

16 C. For a candidate for United States Senator, at least 4,000 and not more than 5,000  
17 voters;

18 D. For a candidate for United States Representative, at least 2,000 and not more than  
19 2,500 voters;

20 E. For a candidate for county office other than county commissioner or county charter  
21 commission member, at least ~~300~~ 150 and not more than ~~400~~ 200 voters;

22 E-1. For a candidate for county commissioner, at least ~~100~~ 50 and not more than ~~150~~  
23 75 voters;

24 F. For a candidate for State Senator, at least ~~200~~ 100 and not more than ~~300~~ 150 voters;

25 G. For a candidate for State Representative, at least ~~50~~ 25 and not more than ~~80~~ 40  
26 voters; and

27 H. For a candidate for county charter commission member, at least 50 and not more  
28 than 80 voters.

29 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§8-A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §13, is  
30 further amended to read:

31 **8-A. Filed with the Secretary of State.** A nomination petition must be filed in the  
32 office of the Secretary of State by 5 p.m. on ~~June 1st~~ March 15th in the election year in  
33 which it is to be used, except that petitions for a slate of candidates for the office of  
34 presidential elector must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by 5 p.m. on August  
35 1st in the election year in which the petitions are to be used.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill requires nomination petitions for state and county offices to have the same  
38 number of signatures as for a primary petition for the same office, to be signed only by  
39 unenrolled voters and to be filed with the Secretary of State by March 15th of the year of  
40 the election.