



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1219

H.P. 864

House of Representatives, March 26, 2013

**An Act To Establish a Run-off Process for the Election of the
Governor, United States Senator or United States Representative**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODBURY of Cumberland and
Representatives: BOLDUC of Auburn, BROOKS of Winterport, CASAVANT of Biddeford,
JONES of Freedom, KAENRATH of South Portland, KRUGER of Thomaston, LIBBY of
Lewiston, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §726** is enacted to read:

3 **§726. Run-off election; Governor; United States Senator; United States**
4 **Representative**

5 The candidate for Governor, United States Senator or United States Representative
6 who receives more than 50% of all the votes cast for the office is elected Governor,
7 United States Senator or United States Representative. If no candidate receives more
8 than 50% of all the votes cast, a 2nd election must be held within 2 weeks after the first
9 election. In the 2nd election, the names of the 2 candidates who received the most votes
10 must be placed on the ballot. The candidate who receives more than 50% of all the votes
11 cast at the 2nd election is elected. The 2nd election must be called and held in the same
12 manner and under the same rules as the first election.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires that a successful candidate for Governor, United States Senator or
15 United States Representative receive more than 50% of the votes cast for the office.
16 Currently, the candidate who receives the largest number of votes is declared the winner,
17 regardless of that number's percentage of the total number of votes cast for the office.
18 The bill requires a run-off election between the 2 candidates who received the largest
19 number of votes when no candidate received more than 50% of the total number of votes
20 cast in an election. The person who receives the larger number of votes in the run-off
21 election is declared the winner.