



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1626

S.P. 523

In Senate, April 23, 2019

An Act To Implement a Presidential Primary System in Maine

Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LUCHINI of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop and

Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, MIRAMANT of Knox,

Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, DUNPHY of Old Town, EVANGELOS of Friendship,

HEPLER of Woolwich, KINNEY of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§5, ¶B-3** is enacted to read:

3 B-3. For a candidate for the office of President of the United States, at least 2,000
4 and not more than 3,000 voters.

5 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 474, §2, is further
6 amended to read:

7 **6. When signed.** Except as provided in subchapter 7 8, a petition may not be signed
8 before January 1st of the election year in which it is to be used.

9 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §335, sub-§8**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 474, §3, is further
10 amended to read:

11 **8. When filed.** Except as provided in subchapter 7 8, a primary petition must be
12 filed in the office of the Secretary of State before 5 p.m. on March 15th of the election
13 year in which it is to be used.

14 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA c. 5, sub-c. 8** is enacted to read:

15 **SUBCHAPTER 8**

16 **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

17 **§441. Determination and date of primary; voter eligibility**

18 **1. Determination of primary.** No later than November 1st of the year prior to a
19 presidential election year, the state committee of each party shall certify whether there is
20 a contest among candidates for nomination as the presidential candidate. Upon receiving
21 the certification from one or more parties, the Secretary of State shall announce the
22 parties that will have a presidential primary election, which must be held on the first
23 Tuesday after the first Monday in March of the presidential election year.

24 **2. Eligible voter.** Notwithstanding section 340, subsection 1, only a voter who is
25 enrolled in a party may vote in the party's presidential primary election.

26 **§442. Petitions**

27 On or before November 1st of the year prior to a presidential election year, the
28 Secretary of State shall prepare and make available petitions for circulation by a person
29 desiring to be a candidate in the state presidential primary election of any party. This
30 petition must be completed and filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 21st of the year
31 prior to a presidential election year in the manner provided in sections 335 and 336.

