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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 408, L.D. 568, Bill, “An Act To Require Candidates To Be Listed as Unenrolled If Not Registered with a Recognized Party”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Relating to Party Designation of Candidates Not Registered with a Recognized Party'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §307, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

1. Length. Exceed one word or include additional numbers or symbols, except that the party designation for presidential and vice-presidential candidates may be up to 3 words in length;

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §307, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2003, c. 447, §9, is further amended to read:

4. Use independent designation. Consist of the word "independent" ~~without another descriptive word or words.~~ The party designation for presidential and vice-presidential candidates may include the word "independent" if it includes another descriptive word or words. The designation "independent," without another descriptive word or words, is reserved for use by candidates that are not enrolled in any qualified or proposed party; and

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §354, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 455, §14, is further amended to read:

1. Content. A nomination petition must contain the name of only one candidate, the candidate's place 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

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1 designation.—This, subject to the following limitations: the designation may not exceed
2 one word or include additional numbers or symbols, except that the political designation
3 for presidential and vice-presidential candidates may be up to 3 words in length; the
4 designation may not incorporate the candidate's name or the designation or an
5 abbreviation of the designation of a party that is qualified to nominate candidates by
6 primary election; and the designation may not consist of or comprise language that is
7 obscene, contemptuous, profane or prejudicial, promotes abusive or unlawful activity or
8 violates any other provision of the laws of this State with respect to names. A candidate
9 who intends to form a new party about that person's candidacy must use the proposed
10 party's designation.

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

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

16 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §601, sub-§2, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §16, is
17 further amended to read:

18 B. The ballot must contain the legal name of each candidate, without any title, and
19 municipality or township of residence of each candidate, arranged alphabetically with
20 the last name first, under the proper office designation. Municipality of residence is
21 not required to be printed for candidates for President and Vice President of the
22 United States. The initial letters of the last names of the candidates must be printed
23 directly beneath each other in a vertical line. The names of candidates for any one
24 office may not be split into more than one column regardless of number. The name
25 of each candidate may be printed on the ballot in only one space. For the general
26 election ballot, the party or political designation of each candidate must be printed
27 with each candidate's name. The printed party or political designation of candidates
28 whose party or political designation is governed by section 307 or 354 must conform
29 to the requirements for those designations under those sections. The party or political
30 designation may be abbreviated.'

31 SUMMARY

32 This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title to reflect the content of the
33 amendment.

34 This amendment provides that the party or political designation of a candidate of an
35 unqualified party is limited to one word and may not include additional numbers or
36 symbols. Presidential and vice-presidential candidate designations remain subject to the
37 current law, which provides that such a party or political designation must be no longer
38 than 3 words.