

Date:

(Filing No. S- )

## VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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### STATE OF MAINE

### SENATE

### 132ND LEGISLATURE

### FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 660, L.D. 1666, “An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes”

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 35-A in the last line (page 1, line 12 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "elected." the following: 'For the purposes of this subsection, "continuing candidate" has the same meaning as in section 723-A, subsection 1, paragraph C and "highest continuing ranking" has the same meaning as in section 723-A, subsection 1, paragraph E.'

Amend the bill in section 10 in paragraph I in the 2nd line (page 2, line 31 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "candidates" the following: 'for that office'

Amend the bill in section 10 in paragraph I in the 3rd line (page 2, line 32 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "ranking" the following: 'of a candidate for an office'

Amend the bill in section 10 in paragraph I in the 4th line (page 2, line 33 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "count" the following: 'in the election for that office'

Amend the bill in section 11 in paragraph J in the first line (page 2, line 37 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "ballot counting" and inserting the following: '~~counting~~ ballot tabulation'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 12 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 12. 21-A MRSA §723-A, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2023, c. 628, §2, is further amended to read:

**2. Procedures.** Except as provided in subsections 3, 4 and 7, the following procedures are used to determine the winner of an election determined by ranked-choice voting. The ranked-choice voting ~~count~~ ballot tabulation must proceed in rounds. In each round, ~~the number of votes for each continuing candidate must be counted. Each continuing ballot counts as one vote is tabulated~~ for its highest-ranked continuing candidate for that round. Exhausted ballots are not ~~counted~~ tabulated for any continuing candidate. The round then ends with one of the following 2 potential outcomes.

1 A. If there are 2 or fewer continuing candidates, the ranked-choice voting ballot  
2 tabulation is complete and each ballot is tabulated as one vote for its highest-ranked  
3 continuing candidate, and the candidate with the most receiving a plurality of the votes  
4 cast is declared the winner of the election elected.

5 B. If there are more than 2 continuing candidates, the last-place candidate is ~~removed~~  
6 ~~from consideration~~ eliminated and a new round begins.'

7 Amend the bill in section 13 in subsection 5 in the last line (page 3, line 20 in L.D.) by  
8 striking out the following: "counting" and inserting the following: 'tabulation'

9 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
10 number to read consecutively.

## 11 SUMMARY

12 This amendment makes technical adjustments to the bill. It includes statutory  
13 references to defined terms used in the definition of "ranked-choice voting." It replaces the  
14 term "count" with the term "tabulate" when referring to the process of determining the  
15 number of votes cast for a candidate in each round of an election determined by  
16 ranked-choice voting. It also clarifies that in the definition of "ranking" the preference  
17 being demonstrated by the voter for a candidate is relative to other candidates for the same  
18 office on that ballot.