

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. 773, L.D. 1977, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2.

Amend the bill in section 4 in §121-A in subsection 3 in the 2nd line (page 2, line 2 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "in-person registration" the following: 'online registration'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 12.

Amend the bill in section 14 in paragraph K in the first line (page 5, line 4 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "purchase" the following: 'for the fee established in subsection 2.'

Amend the bill in section 18 in §306 in subsection 2 in the 5th line (page 6, line 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "in the next election cycle" and inserting the following: 'by December 31st of the year of the next general election following disqualification'

Amend the bill in section 19 in §308 in the indented paragraph in the 3rd line (page 7, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "or other" and inserting the following: 'following an affirmative vote by the party's state committee to relinquish its qualified or qualifying status or, for a party without a state committee, signed by an'

Amend the bill in section 20 in subsection 2 in the 4th line (page 7, line 27 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "by filing" and inserting the following: 'following an affirmative vote by the party's state committee to allow unenrolled voters to sign nominating petitions or, for a party without a state committee, through a determination by an authorized representative of the party. A party must file'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 34 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 34. 21-A MRSA §610, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. ZZ, §1, is amended to read:

'Sec. 35. 21-A MRSA §610, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. ZZ, §1, is amended to read:

Amend the bill by inserting after section 35 the following:

'Sec. 36. 21-A MRSA §610, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. ZZ, §1, is amended to read:

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

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It removes the provision that the digital cast vote record is confidential, except that, in an election determined by ranked-choice voting, the digital cast vote record becomes a public record at the time the Secretary of State completes the tabulation of the vote.

2. It adds online voter registration to the types of voter registration methods that do not require notice within the 30 days before an election that the registrar might not receive the application before the closed period, but that the applicant may register in person any time before the close of the polls on election day.

3. It removes the provision that authorizes the Secretary of State to provisionally designate additional agencies as voter registration agencies, subject to the requirement that the Secretary of State submit draft legislation to the Legislature adding the provisionally designated agency to the list of designated agencies.

4. It adds a reference to the required fee that a person must pay in order to purchase a voter file from the Department of the Secretary of State to evaluate, monitor or seek compliance with the laws relating to voting rights, election administration and voter registration.

5. It removes the term "next election cycle," which is not defined, from the provision allowing disqualified parties to retain their enrolled voters and replaces it with a description

1 of the time frame for filing written notice as "by December 31st of the year of the next
2 general election following disqualification."

3 6. It amends the provision allowing a qualified party to voluntarily dissolve to clarify
4 that a written request filed with the Secretary of State and signed by the statewide chair
5 may come only following an affirmative vote by the party's state committee to relinquish
6 its qualified or qualifying status. For a party without a state committee, the written request
7 must be signed by an authorized representative of the party.

8 7. It amends the provision allowing parties to permit unenrolled voters to sign the
9 parties' candidates' primary nomination petitions after filing a notice with the Secretary of
10 State that the notice may be only filed following an affirmative vote by the party's state
11 committee. For a party without a state committee, the determination must be made through
12 an authorized representative of the party.

13 8. It amends, rather than repeals, the provision requiring the Secretary of State to
14 implement a system for collecting and logging concerns from members of the public
15 regarding the conduct of elections to clarify that the system is for collecting and logging
16 reports from residents of this State of alleged violations of the Maine Revised Statutes,
17 Title 21-A related to the conduct of statewide or federal elections. The amendment specifies
18 that the reported alleged violations must be categorized and that the log must include any
19 action taken to address the alleged violations, if applicable. It also adjusts, rather than
20 repeals, the reporting of this information in the report submitted to the joint standing
21 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters every 2 years.

22 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

23 **(See attached)**