

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 626

S.P. 219

In Senate, March 3, 2015

An Act Regarding Write-in Candidates in Municipal and City Elections

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

Heath & Print

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MASON of Androscoggin.

- 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 2 Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

 <u>11. Write-in votes.</u> A ballot clerk shall count and tabulate the votes cast for a writein candidate only if the printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate or the number of write-in votes exceeds the number of votes for a candidate printed on the ballot.

7 Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2554, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c.
8 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

9 2. Write-in votes. In any city election, a voter may write in the name and 10 municipality of residence of any person for whom the voter desires to vote in the blank 11 space provided at the end of the list of candidates for office. A sticker may not be used to 12 vote for a write-in candidate in any city election other than a primary election. <u>A ballot</u> 13 clerk shall count and tabulate the votes cast for a write-in candidate only if the printed 14 ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate or the number of write-in votes 15 exceeds the number of votes for a candidate printed on the ballot.

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SUMMARY

17 Current law requires municipal and city ballot clerks to count all write-in votes in a 18 municipal or city election regardless of the number of write-in votes cast. This bill 19 provides that a ballot clerk must count and tabulate the votes cast for a write-in candidate 20 only if the printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate or the number 21 of write-in votes exceeds the number of votes for a candidate printed on the ballot.