126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document   **No. 1358**

S.P. 477   In Senate, April 9, 2013

An Act To Amend the Election Laws To Require a Run-off Election for Governor

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

(signature)

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TUTTLE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville and
Senators: PATRICK of Oxford, VALENTINO of York, Representatives: FOWLE of
Vassalboro, GIFFORD of Lincoln, KINNEY of Limington, LUCHINI of Ellsworth,
MITCHELL of the Penobscot Nation, SCHNECK of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §726** is enacted to read:

3 **§726. Run-off election; Governor**

4 The candidate for Governor who receives more than 50% of all the votes cast for the
5 office is elected Governor. If no candidate receives more than 50% of all the votes cast, a
6 2nd election must be held within 2 weeks after the first election. In the 2nd election, the
7 names of the 2 candidates who received the most votes must be placed on the ballot. The
8 candidate who receives more than 50% of all the votes cast at the 2nd election is elected
9 Governor. The 2nd election must be called and held in the same manner and under the
10 same rules as the first election.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires that a successful candidate for Governor receive more than 50% of
13 the votes cast for the office of Governor. Currently, the candidate who receives the
14 largest number of votes is declared the winner, regardless of that number's percentage of
15 the total number of votes cast for the office. This bill requires a run-off election between
16 the 2 candidates who received the largest number of votes when no candidate received
17 more than 50% of the total number of votes cast in an election. The person who receives
18 the larger number of votes in the run-off election is declared the winner.