

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 731

H.P. 540

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

An Act to Aid Municipalities by Eliminating Same Day Registration.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LANE of Enfield.
Cosponsored by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, JOY of Crystal, KASPRZAK of Newport,
LABRECQUE of Gorham, MERES of Norridgewock, MURPHY of Kennebunk, PLOWMAN
of Hampden, UNDERWOOD of Oxford.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 695, §5, is amended to read:

6 **1-A. Identification and proof.** Registration applications
8 taken by outside agencies must be transferred to the Secretary of
10 State within 5 days of receipt. An applicant who attempts to
12 register within 20 days of an election must be advised that the registrar might not receive the application before that election, but that the applicant may register in person up to 24 hours before the polls open on election day to vote in that election.

14 Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from
16 outside agencies 21 days or more before an election must be
18 transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 10 days
20 of receipt. Registration applications received by the Secretary
22 of State from outside agencies 20 days or less before an election
must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within
5 days of receipt. Registration applications by mail must be
received in the registrar's office by the close of business 15
days before election day in order for persons to appear on the
list of registered voters for that election.

24 A person who registers during the 15 days to 24 hours before
26 election day ~~or on election day~~ shall register in person and show
28 proof of identity and residency. If satisfactory proof of
identity and residency can not be provided to the registrar or
deputy, the person casts a challenged ballot.

30 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not
32 register less than 24 hours before the polls open on election day
34 and the registrar may not place that person's name on the list of
36 registered voters for that election or allow that person to vote
38 in that election.

40 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459,
42 §14, is repealed.

44 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§§6 and 7**, as enacted by PL 1985,
46 c. 307, §1, are amended to read:

48 **6. Names to be placed on voting list.** Except as provided in
paragraph A, the registrar shall accept registrations on any
business day or other day that the clerk's office is open. The
Except as provided in paragraph B, the names of any person
registering ~~shall~~ must be placed on the voting list.

2 A. The registrar shall accept only the registrations of
applicants who appear in person as follows:

4 (1) In a municipality with a population of 2,500 or
6 less, ~~on the last business day~~ no less than 24 hours
before election day;

8 (2) In a municipality with a population of more than
10 2,500 on the last 5 business days but not less than 24
12 hours before election day, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7
p.m. to 9 p.m. on at least 3 of these days; and

14 (3) The names of voters registering during these
16 periods shall must be recorded as provided under
subsection 7.

18 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may
not register less than 24 hours before the polls open on
election day and the registrar may not place that person's
name on the list of registered voters for that election or
allow that person to vote in that election.

22 **7. Record of names.** The Except as provided in subsection,
24 6, paragraph B, the names of voters who register by appearing in
26 person before the registrar during the business days before
28 election day under subsection 6 shall, paragraph A, must be
recorded as provided in either paragraph A or B, as the municipal
officers direct:

30 A. The registrar shall, after finding an applicant
32 qualified, issue a certificate entitling the voter to be
placed on the voting list at the voting place on election
day. Only one certificate may be issued to any person; or

34 B. The registrar shall, after finding the applicant
36 qualified, place the names of those voters on a supplemental
voting list. Before the polls are opened, the registrar
38 shall deliver the supplemental list or lists to the clerk or
ward clerk at each voting place. The inclusion of a person's
40 name on that list will entitle the applicant to vote on
election day. All references in this Title to the use of
42 the voting list before, during and after election day are
considered to include the supplemental voting list as
44 provided in this paragraph.

46

2

SUMMARY

4

This bill repeals the current law allowing persons to register and vote on the same day. The bill requires a person to register at least 24 hours before the polls open on election day to vote in that election.

6

8