

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 349

H.P. 249

House of Representatives, February 3, 2025

An Act to Repeal the Laws That Allow Same-day Voter Registration

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 30, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and
Representatives: HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, LIBBY of Auburn, LYMAN of
Livermore Falls, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, Senators:
LIBBY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121-A**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 291, §2 and affected by
3 §4, is further amended to read:

4 **§121-A. Deadline for registration**

5 The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications submitted by mail or by a 3rd
6 person is the close of business on the 21st day before election day. The deadline for receipt
7 of voter registration applications submitted online is midnight on the 21st day before
8 election day. The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications transmitted by the
9 Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 232 or
10 by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 233 is
11 midnight on the 7th day before election day. The deadline for in-person registration is the
12 close of ~~the polls on~~ business on the last Thursday before election day.

13 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 453, §16, is repealed.

14 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §7, is further
15 amended to read:

16 **5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.** If the clerk receives a
17 properly completed absentee ballot application that is signed by a person who is not a
18 registered voter in the municipality, a presumption of the person's qualification as a voter
19 is established. The clerk shall send an absentee ballot to the voter at the address indicated,
20 along with a voter registration application under section 152. The completed registration
21 application must be returned to the clerk by the close of ~~the polls on~~ business on the last
22 Thursday before election day in order for the ballot to be counted and may not be sealed
23 with the voted absentee ballot. If the application is received during the closed period and
24 the registrar is not satisfied as to the person's qualification as a voter, the registrar shall
25 follow the requirements of section 121, subsection 1-A to place the person's name on the
26 incoming voting list and challenge the absentee ballot. An application by telephone under
27 section 753-A, subsection 4 or an application by electronic means under section 753-A,
28 subsection 6 does not establish a presumption of qualification under this section and the
29 requestor must submit a properly completed voter registration application before the clerk
30 may issue an absentee ballot.

31 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§6, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 453, §18, is
32 further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

33 (1) In a municipality with a population of 2,500 or fewer, on the last ~~business day~~
34 Thursday that the clerk's office is open before election day during the hours that
35 the clerk's office is open;

36 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§6, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 453, §18, is
37 further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

38 (2) In a municipality with a population of more than 2,500, on the last ~~5 business~~
39 days Thursday that the clerk's office is open before election day, ~~and for the 4~~
40 business days prior to the last Thursday before election day, during the hours that
41 the clerk's office is open and for 2 hours in the evening between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
42 on at least one of these days; and

