

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 718

H.P. 457

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Require Municipal Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots Only
to Residents of That Municipality and to Eliminate Ongoing
Absentee Voter Status**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 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 ADAMS of Lebanon.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-A, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §13, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **3. Request in writing.** A voter may complete an application or make a written request
5 for the voter's own ballot by mail, in person or by facsimile. The voter may designate an
6 immediate family member or a 3rd person, if that immediate family member or 3rd person
7 is registered to vote in that municipality, to deliver the ballot on the voter's behalf. An
8 immediate family member of a voter may also make an application or written request for
9 an absentee ballot for the voter.

10 A. An application or a written request for an absentee ballot must be accepted by the
11 clerk if it contains the following information:

12 (1) The voter's name and date of birth;

13 (2) The voter's residence address or other address sufficient to identify the voter;

14 (3) The signature of the voter or the voter's immediate family member who is
15 making the application or written request. If an immediate family member is either
16 making the application or written request or is designated in the application or
17 written request to deliver or return the ballot to the voter, then the family
18 relationship to the voter must also be provided; and

19 (4) If applicable, a different address to which the applicant requests the ballot be
20 sent or delivered.

21 B. If the voter needs assistance pursuant to subsection 5, then in addition to the
22 information required in paragraph A, the following information must be provided in
23 order for the application or written request to be accepted by the clerk:

24 (1) The printed name and signature of the person who helped the voter; and

25 (2) A statement that the aide helped the voter by either reading or signing the
26 application, or both.

27 C. If the voter wishes to have the ballot delivered or returned by a 3rd person who is
28 registered to vote in that municipality, then in addition to the information required in
29 paragraph A, the following information must be provided in order for the application
30 or written request to be accepted by the clerk:

31 (1) The name of the 3rd person whom the voter has designated. A 3rd person may
32 ~~only~~ be designated only in an application or written request that is signed by the
33 voter.

34 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §753-A, sub-§8**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 304, Pt. A, §24
35 and affected by §§37 and 39 and amended by c. 404, §1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

36 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §753-A, sub-§9**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU,
37 §4 and affected by PL 2023, c. 304, Pt. A, §37, is repealed.

38 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU,
39 §5 and affected by PL 2023, c. 304, Pt. A, §37, is further amended to read:

