

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 644**

H. P. 438

House of Representatives, February 11, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws, sent up for concurrence and 750 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Miller of Portland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Revising Election Laws Relating to Registration of Voters  
and Boards of Registration.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 3, § 7, amended.** The last sentence of section 7 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following sentences enacted in place thereof :

‘Each board of registration shall promptly transmit to the assessors of its city notice of any error in the name or residence of a qualified voter assessed, together with the name and residence of every male citizen who shall prove for the purposes of registration that he was a resident of the city on the first day of April of the current year, and of every female person who is registered as a voter, but whose name does not appear on the list transmitted by the board of assessors. When a person’s name on the list transmitted by the board of assessors bears the notation that said person cannot be located or has moved out of town, the board of registration shall forthwith send a postcard notice to that person at the last address given, that his or her name shall be stricken from the list of registered voters until such time as said person appears before the board of registration and is duly reinstated or reregistered. If the board of assessors erroneously reports that a voter cannot be located or has moved out of town, said voter’s name may be replaced on the list without the voter’s appearance before the board of registration, providing that person has not actually moved out of town since the assessors first reported.’

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 3, § 13, amended.** The first sentence of section 13 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 197 of the public laws of 1957, is further amended to read as follows :

'The chairman of the board shall receive ~~\$10~~ \$12 and the other 2 members of the board shall receive ~~\$9~~ \$11 each for every day that the board shall be in session for the revision and correction of the voting list and for completing the record thereof.'

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 3, § 16, amended.** The 5th and 6th sentences of section 16 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

'In cities of ~~25,000~~ 20,000 inhabitants or any greater number less than 30,000, the boards shall be in session on each of the 16 days, Sundays and court holidays excepted, next prior to any election; the first 10 days thereof in open session, and the last 6 days thereof in closed session, during the hours and for the purposes as above provided. In cities of 10,000 inhabitants or any greater number less than ~~25,000~~ 20,000, the boards shall be in session on each of the 12 days, Sundays and court holidays excepted, next prior to any election; the first 7 days thereof in open session, and the last 5 days thereof in closed session, during the hours and for the purposes as above provided.'

**Sec. 4. R. S., c. 3, § 16, amended** The 5th and 6th sentences from the end of section 16 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes are repealed and the following sentences enacted in place thereof:

'If a person becomes 21 years of age between the last day of the open session and the closing of the polls on election day, his or her name may be added at any time if said person appears before the board of registration and registers in the usual manner. If the board is satisfied that he or she is qualified, they shall add his or her name to the voting list. On the last days of their session devoted to the completion of the records, the sessions of the board shall close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and certified copies of the voting list shall at that hour be delivered to the city clerk and receipts taken therefor.'

**Sec. 5. R. S., c. 3, § 19, amended.** The last sentence of section 19 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Whenever a registered woman voter shall assume through marriage or any process of law a new surname, she shall appear before the board if there is a full-time board, or she shall appear before the city clerk if there is no full-time board, and the board or the city clerk shall then register her again. Whenever a married woman registers to vote, she shall furnish the board or city clerk with her husband's full name and address in addition to the information required in section 27. When the open session for registration of voters, as hereinbefore provided has ended and before the close of the day of election, she may present to the board a duly executed certificate of her marriage, or of her change of name by process of law, and the board shall cause her name to be changed accordingly on the voting list and the general register, and shall issue its certificate directed to the officers presiding over the election, in the same manner and with the same effect as hereinbefore provided by reason of clerical error or omission of a name from the voting list.'

In cities or towns where there is a full-time board of registration, every person desiring to register may not register with the city clerk but must register with the board.'

**Sec. 6. R. S., c. 3, § 24, amended.** Section 24 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 24. Duty to notify board of registration or city clerk of change of residence; record of changes.** The residence of a voter as stated upon the list of voters used at the last preceding election shall be deemed his last and usual place of abode, unless he shall have given notice in person or in handwriting over his own signature to **the board of registration or** the city clerk of a change of his residence, which notice, if given after the first day of April, shall entitle him to have his residence so corrected on the ~~voting list to be used at the next subsequent election~~ **general register**, but shall not entitle him to have his registration otherwise changed, nor to vote in a ward or precinct other than that in which he resided on the first day of April **last**. The **board or** clerk shall keep a record of all notices of change of residence, which record shall at all times be open to public inspection.'

**Sec. 7. R. S., c. § 25, amended.** Section 25 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 25. Lists of deceased persons and women who have married to be furnished board of registration of voters.** The clerk or register of deaths of each city shall, at least 33 days before each election, and on the first day designated by the board for the revision and correction of the voting list and also on the last of said days set apart for such revision and correction, transmit to the board a certified list of the names of all persons over 21 year of age deceased **and all women who have married** since the preceding election or since the date of the preceding list, with the ward, street and number where such persons resided at the date of death **or marriage**. **Upon receipt of said list the board shall then strike from the list of voters all names of persons so deceased or married. A woman so married must then appear before the board and be re-registered under her married name as provided in section 19.**

**Sec. 8. R. S., c. 3, § 26, amended.** The last sentence of the first paragraph of section 26 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Certified copies of all such lists made in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be furnished to the clerk of such city by the board at least 30 days prior to any such election, and the clerk shall cause such copies to be posted in their respective wards at or near the several voting places customarily used as such, at least 27 days prior to any such election; ~~provided, however, that in~~ **In** case of a failure to elect any municipal officer at any election, or any person elected declines to serve, so that a special election is held to fill the vacancy, or **in** case of a special election to choose Representatives to Congress or members of the Legislature, the board shall not be required to prepare nor the city clerk to post new lists of voters, and for this purpose the board shall be in session on the 3 days, **Saturdays**, Sundays and court holidays excepted, next preceding such election, the first 2 thereof to be devoted to registration of voters and the last to enable the board to verify the correctness of such lists and to complete and close up the records of its sessions.'

**Sec. 9. R. S., c. 3, § 27, repealed and replaced.** Section 27 of chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**‘Sec. 27. Boards to keep register of all voters.** Each board shall keep a general register of voters containing the name and record of every voter entered from year to year on the voting list under this chapter, giving his or her full Christian name and the surname, or the full name or initial or initials of any other name or names he or she may have, date of registration, residence on the previous first day of April or on the day of his or her becoming an inhabitant after the first day of April, date of birth, place of birth, age, occupation, how long resident of the city, place of casting his last vote, married or single, date of marriage, residence of wife, husband or family, party enrollment, where naturalized, in what court, and signature of applicant, arranged under the following headings: Date of registry, ; name, ; residence, street and number, ; residence April 1st, street and number, ; place of birth, ; date of birth, ; age, ; occupation, ; place of occupation, ; how long a resident of city, ; where last vote was cast, ; married or single, ; date of marriage, ; residence of wife, husband or family, ; party enrollment, ; where naturalized, ; when naturalized, ; by what court, ; signature of applicant, ; remarks, .’