

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 31

VOTING BY MEMBERS OF THE  
ARMED FORCES

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**§ 1301. Applicability of provisions**

This chapter applies to members of the armed forces as defined in section 1.

1961, c. 360, § 1; c. 408, § 10-A.

**§ 1302. Methods of registration**

A member of the armed forces may register at any time as follows:

**1. Federal form.** He may complete and file the federal post-card application form with the registrar.

**2. Form filed.** He may complete and file with the registrar an application provided by the municipality stating the information necessary to show his qualifications.

**3. Request by relative.** A blood relative, former guardian or spouse may complete and file with the registrar the application described in subsection 2.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1303. Duty of registrar**

On receipt of an application described in section 1302, the registrar shall register the applicant, unless it appears he is not

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qualified. If he is not qualified, the registrar shall advise him the reason why.

**1. Member specially designated.** The registrar shall place the letter "S" on the voting list beside the name of each member of the armed forces registered under this section.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1304. Enrollment**

A member of the armed forces who is registered to vote may enroll by designating his party preference over his signature.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1305. Name may be added at any time**

The registrar may add the name of a member of the armed forces to the voting list at any time.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1306. Absentee ballots; application**

A written request for an absentee ballot from a member of the armed forces, his spouse, a blood relative or his former guardian is sufficient.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1307. —Procedure on receipt**

The following absentee ballot procedure shall be observed:

**1. Delivery of ballot.** On receipt of an absentee ballot application, federal postcard application or a written request as described in section 1306 the clerk shall mail the ballot and voting instructions forthwith to the member.

**2. Special ballots and envelopes.** The Secretary of State shall provide a ballot and an envelope which will move free of postage under federal law.

**3. Ballot marked and sealed.** The member shall mark his ballot according to section 921 or 922 in such a way as to make it impossible for anyone to see how he voted. He shall then seal the ballot in its return envelope, write his voting residence including street address in the upper left hand corner of the return envelope, sign his name and have his signature certified as that of the voter. His signature may be certified by any commissioned

officer, noncommissioned officer not below the rank of sergeant, or petty officer in the armed forces, or by any diplomatic or consular official of the United States. He shall then mail the envelope to the clerk of his municipality.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1308. —Procedure on return**

On receipt of a return envelope apparently containing an absentee ballot, the clerk shall note the date and time of delivery on it and deliver it to the registrar. The registrar shall certify on the envelope whether the person whose name appears as sender is registered, and in a primary election enrolled, in the municipality. He shall then return the envelope to the clerk.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1309. —Acceptance by clerk**

The clerk shall accept all absentee ballots delivered to him before 5 p. m. on election day. On request, he shall give the person who delivers a ballot a receipt stating the exact time of delivery.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1310. —Procedure on election day**

On election day before the polls are closed, the clerk shall deliver the envelopes to the warden of the voting district in which the voter is registered. If there is more than one voting district, he shall deliver a list of the names, addresses and districts of the voters as shown on the return envelopes.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1311. —Irregularities waived**

An absentee ballot cast by a member of the armed forces may not be rejected for any immaterial irregularity in completing the application for the ballot or its return envelope.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 1312. Authority of Secretary of State**

The Secretary of State may act administratively to facilitate voting by members of the armed forces. He may use federal or other facilities available for this purpose.

1961, c. 360, § 1.