

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 28, 1906

To Harry E. Stetson, Esquire, Board of Registration, Bath, Maine
Re: Registration before 21st Birthday

Your favor addressed to the secretary of state under date of February 27th has been handed to me for reply.

Our statute relating to registration is silent as to whether a person may be registered before he has attained his twenty-first birthday, but it is very plain that if a person is twenty-one years or upwards on election day he may have the right to vote, providing he has the other required qualifications and has his name properly entered upon the voting list.

I believe it has been quite common in most of the cities of this state, acting under the registration law, to register an applicant even if he has not reached his twenty-first birthday, providing he has the other qualifications and the board is satisfied that he will be twenty-one years of age on election day. This seems to be in harmony with the spirit of our law relating to voting and I should not hesitate to say under all the circumstances that the board would be authorized to register a young man who was an applicant under these circumstances under discussion.

Warren C. Philbrook
Assistant Attorney General