

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 16, 1948

To Laura D. Marston, Chairman, Board of Registration, Auburn
Re: Change of Enrolment

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 12th.

Under Section 2 of Chapter 4 of the Revised Statutes of 1944, "A voter may change his enrolment at any time, but the person making such change of enrolment shall not vote in any political caucus or primary election within 6 months thereafter."

The change in enrolment is made when the voter files a declaration in writing as provided for in the preceding part of this section. Having delivered such declaration and the change being made, he cannot withdraw; but there is no reason why he cannot change his enrolment as often as he wishes, the only restriction in the statute being that he cannot vote in any political caucus or primary election within six months after the change is made.

You say that it has been the practice of your board not to make the change until six months after the declaration or card which contains the declaration has been received. That, it seems to me, is not the proper way to handle it, since in the case cited in your letter, when he files his declaration of change from a Republican to a Democrat, if he is retained on the Republican voting list, he would then be able to obtain from the ballot clerk a Republican ballot. The change from one party to the other should be made immediately on receipt of the declaration, provided it is in proper form, so that he may not vote for six months thereafter in a political caucus or primary election for the candidates of the party in which he was enrolled prior to or after the change.

Abraham Breitbard
Deputy Attorney General

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