

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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August 9, 1974

Peter M. Damborg, Deputy

State

Phillip M. Kilmister, Assistant

Attorney General

Amendment of Title 21, Section 1252(2)

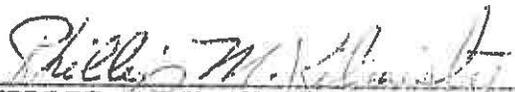
By adding the words "and year" to the statute governing the essential information which must be specified in an application for an absentee ballot, it must be concluded that the Legislature intended that a space should be provided in the body of the application wherein an applicant shall set forth the year as well as the type of election in which he wishes to vote.

The applicable language of (P.L. 1973, c. 718) reads as follows:

"The application must contain a place for the following: Name of applicant, address, address to which ballot is to be sent, title and year of election at which ballot is to be cast, name of party in which he is or desires to be enrolled, date of application and signature of applicant.

The Legislative intent seems to dictate that an application form be composed in which a separate blank space be set forth in said application, underlined by the word "year".

In closing, I note that you inquire in your memo as to the need to print a specific year on the application forms. I would advise against this procedure. The obligation of providing relevant information as a condition precedent to obtaining an absentee ballot is placed upon the voter-applicant and not the Secretary of State's Office. Also, as a practical matter, leaving a blank space for the designation of year, will allow use of the same application forms for subsequent elections, absent further legislative directions.


PHILLIP M. KILMISTER
Assistant Attorney General

PMK/BLS

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