

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

H. P. 803 House of Representatives, February 7, 1963 Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Mr. Rust of York.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing for Voting by New Residents in Presidential Election.

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

R. S., c. 3-A, §§ 29-A - 29-O, additional. Chapter 3-A of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 360 of the public laws of 1961, is amended by adding 15 new sections, to be numbered 29-A to 29-O, to read as follows:

'New Residents in Presidential Election.

Sec. 29-A. Eligibility of new residents to vote. Each citizen of the United States who immediately prior to his removal to this State was a citizen of another state and who has been a resident of this State for less than 6 months prior to a presidential election is entitled to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors at that election, but for no other offices, if

I. Qualifications. He otherwise possesses the substantive qualifications to vote in this State, except the requirement of residence and registration; and

II. Compliance. He complies with sections 29-A to 29-O.

Sec. 29-B. Application for presidential ballot by new residents. A person desiring to qualify under sections 29-A to 29-O in order to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors is not required to register but on or before 30 days before the election shall make an application in the form of an affidavit executed in duplicate in the presence of the municipal clerk substantially as follows:

State of Maine.....

County of

No. 1190

SS.

I, do solemnly swear that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States.

2. Before becoming a resident of this State, I resided at Street,, of of the State of Municipality County

of County

5. I hereby make application for a presidential and vice-presidential ballot. I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at that election.

Sec. 29-C. Mailing duplicate application. The municipal clerk shall immediately mail to the appropriate official of the state in which the applicant last resided the duplicate of the application.

Sec. 29-D. Filing and indexing information from other states. The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other official information received by him from another state indicating that a former resident of this State has made application to vote at a presidential election in another state and shall maintain an alphabetical index thereof, for a period of one year after the election.

Sec. 29-E. Delivery of ballot to applicant. If satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under sections 29-A to 29-O, the municipal clerk then shall deliver to the applicant a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential electors not sooner than 15 days nor later than one day prior to the next presidential election.

Sec. 29-F. Voting by new residents. The applicant, upon receiving the ballot for presidential and vice-presidential electors shall mark forthwith the ballot in the presence of the municipal clerk but in such manner that the official cannot know how the ballot is marked. He shall then fold the ballot in the munici-

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pal clerk's presence, so as to conceal the markings, and deposit and seal it in an envelope furnished by the municipal clerk.

The voter shall enclose the envelope containing the ballot in a carrier envelope which shall be securely sealed. The carrier envelope shall have imprinted upon its back, a statement substantially as follows:

"Certification of New Resident Voter

I have qualified as a new resident voter in this State to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors and I have not applied nor do I intend to apply for an absentee voter's ballot from the state from which I have removed and I have not voted and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot.

The voter shall sign the certification upon the enclosure envelope as set forth above, and shall then deliver the sealed carrier envelope to the municipal clerk, who shall keep the carrier envelope in his office until delivered by him to the warden at the appropriate voting place.

Sec. 29-G. List of applicants open for public inspection. The municipal clerk shall keep open to public inspection a list of all persons who have applied under sections 29-A to 29-O to vote as new residents with their names, addresses and application dates.

Sec. 29-H. Delivery and deposit of ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and deliver the ballots for new residents to the municipal clerk in the manner prescribed by law for absentee ballots, and the ballots shall be processed in accordance therewith.

The municipal clerk shall record the new resident voter's name with a notation designating him as a new resident voting for presidential and vicepresidential electors only.

Sec. 29-I. Challenge of new resident's vote. The vote of any new resident may be challenged for cause. The warden at the appropriate voting place has all the powers and authority conferred upon them by law in respect to hearing and determining the legality of challenged votes.

Sec. 29-J. Penalties. Any person willfully making a false statement or affidavit required by sections 29-A to 29-O shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for a period of not less than one month nor more than 11 months, or by both. If any public official willfully refuses or neglects to perform any of the duties prescribed by sections 29-A to 29-O or violates any of their provisions, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for a period of not less than one month nor more than 11 months, or by both.

Sec. 29-K. Application of other statutes. Except as otherwise provided in

sections 29-A to 29-O and insofar as they are applicable, the law relating to absentee ballots applies to the casting and counting of ballots and challenging of votes by new residents, the furnishing of election supplies, ballots, canvassing of ballots and making proper returns of the results of the election.

Sec. 29-L. Definition of state. As used in sections 29-A to 29-O, "state" includes the District of Columbia.

Sec. 29-M. Uniformity of interpretation. Sections 29-A to 29-O shall be so construed as to effectuate the general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact them.

Sec. 29-N. Severability. If any provision of sections 29-A to 29-O or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of sections 29-A to 29-O which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of sections 29-A to 29-O are declared to be severable.

Sec. 29-O. Short title. Sections 29-A to 29-O may be cited as the "Act for Voting by New Residents in Presidential Elections."

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