

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1648

H. P. 1180

House of Representatives, January 17, 1965

The Committee on Election Laws suggested.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Binnette of Old Town.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SIX

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**AN ACT Relating to the Laws Governing Elections and Voting Machines.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 71, amended.** The first paragraph of section 71 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

‘In a city **or a town** which has a board of registration, the clerk shall accept applications for registration and enrollment when the board is not in session.’

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 134, sub-§ 2, repealed and replaced.** Subsection 2 of section 134 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘2. Party designation removed from voting list. On receipt of the application, the registrar shall remove the party designation beside the name of the applicant on the voting list and shall make a notation on the voting list that the applicant is ineligible to vote at a caucus or primary election for a period of 6 months. At the expiration of 6 months from the date of receipt of the application by the registrar, the registrar shall enroll the applicant in the party requested.’

**Sec. 3. R. S., T. 21, § 531, amended.** Section 531 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

‘§ 531. Wardens and ward clerks

In a city, the election, term of office, compensation and partial duties of wardens and ward clerks are determined by the city charter. Additional duties are prescribed by this Title. In a town, the chairman of the municipal officers

shall appoint a warden and one or more deputy wardens to serve in the absence or disability of the warden. **Deputy wardens shall perform the duties of the warden in his absence only and shall not be utilized to replace election clerks prescribed by this Title.** The warden and deputy wardens must be municipal officers **except when there are more voting places than there are municipal officers, in which event they may appoint a special deputy for each additional voting place.** The chairman may designate himself as warden or deputy warden. ~~In a town which has more than one voting place, the clerk may appoint a special deputy to help perform his duties on election day.~~ **The clerk may appoint a special deputy to help perform his duties on election day.'**

**Sec. 4. R. S., T. 21, § 532, sub-§ 5, amended.** Subsection 5 of section 532 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by inserting after the 2nd sentence, a new sentence to read as follows:

**'They shall be in attendance at all times on election day.'**

**Sec. 5. R. S., T. 21, § 831, sub-§ 3, amended.** The 2nd sentence of subsection 3 of section 831 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'He shall accept the registration of a person who becomes 21 years of age or fulfills the residence requirements on election day or after the close of registrations prior to it, in any municipality.'**

**Sec. 6. R. S., T. 21, § 1043, sub-§ 1, amended.** The last sentence of subsection 1 of section 1043 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'The warden ~~or his designated election clerk~~ and the election clerk designated above shall proceed to operate the mechanism provided to produce one "before election inspection record" showing whether the candidate and question counters register "ooo" and sign the certificate as prescribed by the Secretary of State.'**

**Sec. 7. R. S., T. 21, § 1047, sub-§ 1, amended.** The next to the last sentence of subsection 1 of section 1047 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'The warden ~~or his designated election clerk~~ and an election clerk who is a member of another political party shall proceed to operate the mechanism provided to produce a record of the votes cast on the candidate and question counters.'**

**Sec. 8. R. S., T. 21, § 1253, sub-§ 2, amended.** Subsection 2 of section 1253 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read as follows:

**'The clerk shall write in ink or by typewriter the name of the person for whom the absentee ballot is intended in the upper left hand section of all return envelopes.'**

**Sec. 9. R. S., T. 21, § 1254, sub-§ 4, amended.** The last sentence of subsection 4 of section 1254 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'He shall then seal the ballot in its return envelope, and complete the affidavit on the envelope in the presence of the official who shall subscribe his name, note his title and **may** affix his seal if he is a notary public.'

**Sec. 10. R. S., T. 21, § 1351, sub-§ 4, additional.** Section 1351 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subsection 4 to read as follows:

**'4. Forms printed by voters.** If a voter wishes to have the forms printed and furnished by himself, rather than by the Secretary of State, and at his own expense, he may do so **provided** these forms are first approved by the Secretary of State as to form and content.'

**Sec. 11. R. S., T. 21, § 1572, sub-§ 1, amended.** Subsection 1 of section 1572 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read as follows:

**'Voting districts, once established, may be consolidated into a lesser number of districts by following the same procedure.'**

**Sec. 12. R. S., T. 21, § 1579, sub-§ 18, amended.** Subsection 18 of section 1579 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**'18. Interference with voter.** A person who interferes with a voter attempting to cast his vote in the voting place **or who interferes with or attempts to illegally influence a voter in marking his ballot;**'