

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 141

H. P. 97

House of Representatives, January 12, 1971

Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Emery of Rockland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Amending the Absentee Voting Laws.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 1252, sub-§ 2, repealed and replaced. Subsection 2 of section 1252 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

2. Content of application. There shall be 3 different types of absentee ballot applications, one each for use in primary, general and special elections. Each type shall be printed on paper of a distinctive color: Yellow for primary, white for general and pink for special elections. The title of the election and the date on which it is to be held shall be printed at the top of each application form.

The primary election absentee ballot application must contain a place for the applicant to indicate the party in which he is or desires to be enrolled. An unenrolled but duly registered voter, having indicated a desire to enroll in a political party on a properly completed and signed primary absentee ballot application, shall be listed as a member of that party on the official list of voters and shall be sent an absentee ballot of that party.

Each absentee ballot application must contain a place for the following: Name of applicant, his address, the address to which the absentee ballot is to be sent, date of application and signature of the applicant. It must contain a place for the applicant to designate the reason for requesting an absentee ballot, the name of a person to whom his ballot may be delivered and a place for the registrar to certify if the applicant is registered and enrolled.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 1253, sub-§ 1, repealed and replaced. Subsection 1 of section 1253 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

1. Applications available. The clerk shall not distribute any absentee ballot applications to anyone prior to 45 days before the date of the election for which they were printed. Thereafter, upon request, he shall furnish a reasonable number of ballot applications to any person.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 21, § 1253, sub-§ 5, additional. Section 1253 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as last amended by section 1 of chapter 161 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended by adding a new subsection 5 to read as follows:

5. Application not accepted. Any absentee ballot application, signed prior to 45 days before the date of the election for which it was printed, or any request for an absentee ballot made on an application other than one printed specifically for the election in which the applicant desires to cast his ballot, shall not be accepted.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 21, § 1254, sub-§ 1, amended. Subsection 1 of section 1254 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 163 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended by adding at the end the following 2 new sentences as follows:

No candidate for public office shall be present as an absentee voter marks his ballot nor shall he certify the voting procedure with his signature. At no time shall a candidate have in his possession an absentee ballot intended for a person who is a registered voter of the district in which he is a candidate for public office.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would eliminate certain inequities in the absentee voting procedure by limiting the time period during which absentee ballot applications may be signed and submitted, and by prohibiting a candidate from witnessing or certifying ballots.