

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 593

H. P. 444

House of Representatives, February 1, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hobbins of Saco.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide for Uniform Absentee Ballot Deadlines.

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

R. S., T. 21, § 1255, amended. The last sentence of section 1255 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 18 of chapter 225 of the public laws of 1967 and as amended by section 22 of chapter 65 of the public laws of 1971, is further amended to read as follows:

In order to be valid, an absentee ballot must be delivered to the municipal clerk before ~~3 p. m.~~ 8 p. m. on election day ~~except in the presidential election, absentee ballots may be delivered to the clerk at any time before the closing of the polls.~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to bring Maine statutes in line with federal statutes. Presently federal law requires that absentee ballots cast in presidential elections be accepted until the close of the polls in a municipality. This bill would eliminate confusion and the subsequent disenfranchisement of absentee votes by making the deadline the same for all elections.