

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 686

H. P. 521

House of Representatives, February 7, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Snowe of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Voting Lists.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 171, sub-§ 2, repealed and replaced. Subsection 2 of section 171 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

2. Maintenance of registration. Mail canvass and inactive file. The local registrar shall maintain the files of registration cards and in such condition as will correctly represent the registration of qualified voters at all times. He shall continually purge such cards of voters no longer qualified to vote in the city or town. He shall promptly record all changes of address, changes of name, transfers and cancellations of registration. The registrar shall maintain a list of active voters and a file of inactive voters.

Between the first day of January and the 30th day of June following each general election, the local registrar shall cause a registration inquiry notice to be forwarded by first class mail to each qualified voter, except those in military service, who has not voted in any election during the preceding 26 months' period ending December 31st. The inquiry notice shall be substantially the following form:

To the voter, etc.: TAKE NOTICE that according to the records of
..... you have not voted in any election during the
(name of city or town)

26 months' period ending December 31st. In order to keep the permanent registration list up to date, your registration as a voter will become inactive

unless you complete and return the attached postage-paid postcard. You should fill in and sign the postcard and drop it in any mailbox immediately.

Registrar of

The return portion of the inquiry card shall be in substantially the following form:

I hereby certify that my residence and home is at
..... where I have resided since
(fill in street address) (month year)

and I wish to keep my registration to vote active.

.....
Signature of voter

Date:

(print name here)

The registration cards of any voter whose return postcard, furnished with the notice of inquiry, is not duly filled in, signed and returned within 20 days from the date of mailing may be transferred to an inactive file, unless the registrar is satisfied by other evidence that the voter is still qualified to vote in the city or town.

After the completion of such biennial inquiry, the local registrar shall send to each such registered voter, to whom a registration inquiry was mailed and whose existence or whereabouts remains unaccounted for, a final notice substantially in the following form, by first class mail, to show cause at the offices of the registrar within 10 days after the date thereof why his registration should not be transferred to inactive status.

Final Notice

Date

To the voter, etc.: TAKE NOTICE that the registrar of voters has not received a reply to a voter registration inquiry sent to you this year. According to law, you are hereby notified to appear at the office of the registrar within 10 days from the above date to show cause why your registration should not be transferred to inactive status. If you do not appear within 10 days, your registration will become inactive.

Registrar of

.....
(Street address)

.....
(City or Town)

In default of appearance or of a proper showing of cause by a voter to whom the final notice has been mailed as above, the registration of such voter shall become inactive. The registrar shall cause both registration cards to be

marked 'Inactive' in ink, together with the date and cause of such action, and shall forthwith notify the Secretary of State of such action.

If a registered voter does not vote at least once at an election within the 5 calendar years succeeding his registration, his registration shall be cancelled, except that the registration of no person shall be so cancelled during his service in the Armed Forces of the United States and during 2 years thereafter. A voter whose registration has been so cancelled shall not thereafter be eligible to vote unless he shall again register. The local registrar shall notify the Secretary of State of such action.

Any registered voter whose registration cards have been marked inactive may, at any time, present himself in person at the office of the local registrar and furnish evidence of his continued qualifications to vote. The local board, upon satisfactory evidence being so furnished, shall restore such voter to the voting list for the voting district in which he is registered. The local registrar shall notify the Secretary of State of such action.

Any registered voter who presents himself at the polls on election day and whose registration cards have been marked 'Inactive,' being otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to vote upon executing an affidavit as provided below:

Under penalty prescribed by law I hereby make affidavit that I am
.....
whose name appears on the inactive voting list for use in the (city/town) of
..... and that the above name under which
I offer to vote is my own name.

.....
Name
.....
Address

Subscribed and sworn to on this day of A.D.
19...., before me
.....
Warden

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 171, sub-§ 5, repealed. Subsection 5 of section 171 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to maintain up-to-date and accurate voting lists.