

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2141

S. P. 729

In Senate, January 2, 1974

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shute of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT to Clarify Certain Election Laws.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, § 602, sub-§ 4, amended. Subsection 4 of section 602 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 218 of the public laws of 1973, is amended to read as follows:

4. Size. Municipalities must provide a polling place of sufficient size to allow at least one worker from each political party to remain outside the guardrail for the purpose of checking voters, challenging voters or viewing. Upon written complaint to the Secretary of State by the chairman of either state committee no later than ~~7~~ 10 days prior to an election, the Secretary of State shall authorize an inspection of the polling place deemed to be too small to allow party workers access. If the Secretary of State finds a polling place to be too small to allow party workers access, he shall instruct the municipal officers to change the location of the polling place to one of a suitable size. The municipal officers must advertise **at least 3 times** the change of the polling place in the daily or weekly newspaper, or both, that covers the area.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 21, § 631, sub-§ 1, amended. Subsection 1 of section 631 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

1. Municipality of 2,500 or less. In a municipality of 2,500 or less population, he shall accept registrations during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on at least one business day during the week before election day. He shall accept registrations **in person** on election day, but not on the business day next prior to it.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 21, § 831, sub-§ 3, reenacted. Subsection 3 of section 831 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended and as last repealed by section 38 of chapter 414 of the public laws of 1973, is reenacted to read as follows:

3. **Registration and enrollment.** He shall accept registrations as provided in sections 631 and 632. He shall accept the enrollment of any voter as provided in section 133.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 21, § 1256, sub-§ 5, amended. Subsection 5 of section 1256 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

5. **Envelopes and lists delivered.** ~~Before~~ **After** the polls are closed on election day, he shall deliver the return envelopes prescribed by section 1255 with the applications attached and the list required by subsection 4 to the warden of the voting district in which the voter is registered, except in those municipalities where the municipal officers have authorized the clerk to process absentee ballots. If more than one return envelope is received from the same voter, the clerk shall deliver to the warden for counting only the return envelope bearing the earliest date and time.

A. Exceptions. In a presidential election, the clerk shall deliver the return envelopes with the applications ~~received between 3 p.m. and the close of the polls~~ and the list required by subsection 4 to the warden of the voting precinct as soon as he reasonably can following the closing of the polls. This exception does not apply to municipalities with 2 or more voting precincts where absentee ballots are counted at a place other than the voting district.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title.