

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2253

H. P. 1781

House of Representatives, January 2, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Curtis of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT Relating to Absentee Voting by Persons Serving Sentences in Jails
and Penal Institutions.**

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

R. S., T. 21, § 1, sub-§ 1, amended. The last sentence of subsection 1 of section 1 of Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is repealed as follows:

~~A person who is serving a sentence in a jail or penal institution is not an absentee voter~~

STATEMENT OF FACT

At the present time the following persons, otherwise qualified, may vote in all elections — persons on probation, parole, work release or furlough. All such persons have been convicted of crime and, except as to some probationers, are in execution of sentence. Since such persons are not actually confined and may reach the polls to vote, the restriction sought to be eliminated by this Act presents no impediment to the exercise of such right.

It is considered appropriate that the barrier to the exercise of franchise which stands in the way of persons serving sentences in jails and penal institutions, while in actual confinement, be removed, thus permitting such persons to vote by absentee ballot if otherwise qualified.