

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-515)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 20, L.D. 28, Bill;  
"AN ACT to Require the Closing of Voter Registration 32 Days  
Prior to an Election."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the title and  
inserting in place thereof the following: 'AN ACT to  
Require the Closing of Voter Registration 9 Business Days  
Prior to an Election.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything after  
the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the  
following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §631, as last amended by PL 1973,  
c. 782, §8, is repealed and the following enacted in place  
thereof:

§631. Time or schedule of registration

1. Purpose. The Legislature finds and declares that  
it is in the best interests of the people of the State  
that the process of registration of voters be completed  
as expeditiously and as thoroughly as possible, that abuses  
of the election system can occur when the process is not  
conducted carefully and that the administrative tasks of  
registration and the preparation of adequate voter records,  
especially the required sending of a notification to the  
municipality of former residence of applicants who have just  
moved to a municipality, require that the registration process

be closed earlier than in the past. The Legislature further finds and declares that the most appropriate closing date for the registration process for all municipalities in the State is the same as the former closing date for the largest municipalities in the State, 9 business days before an election day. The Legislature further finds and declares that, when the registration has been closed for such a period of 9 business days and the administrative tasks of registration and the preparation of voter records during that period have been completed, further registration can appropriately be conducted on election day.

2. Regular elections. The registrar shall not accept registrations at a regular election on the 9 business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations at a regular election according to the time schedule prescribed by this subsection.

A. 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 between the 10th and 18th business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations in person on election day.

B. Municipality of 2,501 to 5,000. In a municipality of 2,501 to 5,000 population, he shall accept registration from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th to 12th business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations in person on election day.

C. Municipality of 5,001 to 10,000. In a municipality of 5,001 to 10,000 population, he shall accept registrations from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th to 14th business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations in person on election day.

D. Municipality of 10,001 to 24,000. In a municipality of 10,001 to 24,000 population, he shall accept registrations from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th to 16th business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations in person on election day.

E. Municipality of 24,000 or more. In a municipality of 24,000 or more population, he shall accept registrations from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th to 18th business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations in person on election day.

3. Special elections. The registrar shall accept registrations at special elections according to the time schedule prescribed by this subsection.

A. Municipality of 2,500 or less. In a municipality of 2,500 or less population, he shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 10th business day prior to election day and he shall accept registrations on election day.

B. Municipality of more than 2,500. In a municipality of more than 2,500 population, he shall accept registrations during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on the 2nd and 3rd business days next prior to the 10th business day before election day and in addition, during business hours on the 10th business day before election day. He shall not accept registrations on the 9 business days next prior to election day. He shall accept registrations on election day.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §632, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, §§ 27 and 28, is repealed.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is reflected in the statement of purpose in section 631, subsection 1 of section 1. The amendment provides that voter registration will close on the 10th business day before election day. This establishes for all municipalities the same time limit that now applies to those municipalities of 24,001 or more population. This time period is necessary for the registrars to check and maintain accurate records and to send the required notice to municipalities of former residence. Registration will be allowed on election day.

Reported by Report "A" on the Committee of Election Laws.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.  
5/29/75

(Filing No. H-515)