

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-516)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "R" 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 in section 2 by striking out
everything after the amending clause and inserting in place
thereof the following:

'§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 of Maine that
the process of registration of voters be completed as expedi-
tiously 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 prepara-
tion 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 appro-
priate closing date for the registration process for all muni-
cipalities 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 the registration of those persons who attain their
18th birthday during the closed period or on election day 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 not accept registrations at a regular election on election day except for the registration of any person who has attained his or her 18th birthday after the close of registration prior to election day or on 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, except that on election day he shall accept the registration of any person who has attained his or her 18th birthday after the close of registration prior to election day or 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 not accept registrations on election day, except for the registration of any person who has attained his or her 18th birthday after the close of registration prior to election day or on election day.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §632, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, §§ 27 and 28, is repealed.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of the amendment is reflected in the statement of purpose in section 631, subsection I, in the new Section 2. The amendment provides that voter registration will close on the 10th business day before election day, except for persons who become 18 years of age during the closed period or on 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.

The committee amendment includes features of another bill before the committee, L.D. 324 sponsored by Representative Nadeau.

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

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

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