

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 28

H. P. 20

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 10, 1974 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. McMahon of Kennebunk. To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 107th Legislature.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. McMahon of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Require the Closing of Voter Registration 32 Days Prior to an Election.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA, § 246, sub-§ 1, 2nd sentence, is amended to read:

He may ~~register and~~ enroll on election day.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA, § 631, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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; regular elections

The registrar shall accept registrations at a regular election according to the time schedule prescribed by this section.

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 in which voter registration is closed and in addition during business hours of the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

2. Municipality of 2,501 to 5,000. In a municipality of 2,501 to 5,000 population, he shall accept registrations from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th to 6th business days next prior to the 32nd day before election day, and in addition during business hours of the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

3. 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 6th to 10th business days next prior to the 32nd day before election day, and in addition during business hours of the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

4. 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 8th to 14th business days next prior to the 32nd day before election day, and in addition during business hours of the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

5. Municipality of 24,001 or more. In a municipality of 24,001 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 the 32nd day before election day, and in addition during business hours of the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA, § 632, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, §§ 27 and 28, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 632. —special elections

The registrar shall accept registrations at a special election according to the time schedule prescribed by this section.

1. 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 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

2. Municipality of more than 2,500. In a municipality of more than 2,500 population, the registrar shall accept registrations during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on the 2nd and 3rd business days next prior to the 32nd day before election day, and in addition during business hours on the 32nd day before election day. He shall not accept registrations following the close of business hours on the 32nd day prior to election day except as provided in section 831.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA, § 672, 3rd ¶ from the end, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 9, is further amended to read:

The registrar of voters or board of registration will hold office hours while the polls are open to correct any error in or change a name or address on the voting list; to accept the registration of any person ~~eligible to vote who becomes 18 years of age on election day, or after the close of registrations prior to it~~ and to accept new enrollments.

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA, § 831, sub-§ 3, as reenacted by PL 1973, c. 782, § 11, is amended to read:

3. Registration and enrollment. He shall accept registrations ~~as provided in sections 631 and 632~~ of any persons who become 18 years of age on election day, or after the close of registrations prior to it. He shall accept the enrollment of any voter as provided in section 133.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide that voter registration will close on the 32nd day before elections, except for persons who become 18 years of age between the closing of registration and election day.