

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to H.P. 796, L.D. 969, Bill,
"AN ACT to Provide for Date of Election on Applications for
Absentee Voting."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting
clause and before the Statement of Fact and inserting in place
thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Form of envelope. The return envelope in which the
absentee ballot is to be placed shall include on its outside
a conspicuously printed warning to the voter of the provisions
of section 1258 and of section 1579, subsection 13.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§1 is amended to read:

1. Applications available. On request, the clerk shall
furnish a resonable number of ballot applications to any person,
provided that the date of the election for which such application
shall be used is plainly printed on its face and that no application
shall be furnished more than 3 months prior to the election for which
such application shall be used.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§3, as last repealed and replaced by
PL 1973, c. 625, §112, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence
to read:

The clerk shall keep a list of the persons who vote in the clerk's
office pursuant to subsection 5.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Absentee voting in clerk's office. A person who wishes to vote by absentee ballot because he will not be present in the municipality or able to vote in person at the voting place on election day may, without completing an application, vote by absentee ballot before the clerk or deputy clerk of the municipality in the clerk's office during regular business hours within 3 months prior to the election. The method of voting shall otherwise be as prescribed in this chapter. '

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to further strengthen the absentee ballot statutes by providing that applications cannot be issued more than 3 months before the election, that persons may vote by absentee ballot at the clerk's office without completing an application, and that a warning must be printed on the absentee ballot envelope that a person who has voted by absentee ballot but is present and able to vote in person on election day must do so or be subject to a criminal penalty.

Reported by the Committee on Election Laws.

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