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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 2039, L.D. 2212, "AN ACT Re-

lating to the Registration of Voters".

Amend said Bill by striking everything after the enacting

clause and before the emergency 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§ 8, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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.   Schedule of registration; regular elections

1.   Election day.   The registrar shall not accept registra-

tions on election day, except that he shall accept in person the

registration of any person who:

        A.   Has attained his 18th birthday or otherwise qualified

        as a voter since the last business day for accepting

        registrations in that municipality, as prescribed in

        subsection 2; or

        B.   Attained his 18th birthday while absent from the

        municipality and remained continuously absent from the

        municipality until after the last business day for ac-

        cepting registrations in that municipality, as prescribed

        in subsection 2.

2.   Municipalities.   The registrar shall accept registrations

at a regular election according to the time and hourly schedule

prescribed by this section.

A. In a municipality of 2,500 or less population, the registrar shall accept registrations during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on at least one business day during the week before election day.

B. In a municipality of 2,501 to 5,000 population, the registrar 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 election day.

C. In a municipality of 5,001 to 10,000 population, the registrar shall accept registration from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 6th to 10th business days next prior to election day.

D. In a municipality of 10,001 to 24,000 population, the registrar 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 election day.

E. In a municipality of 24,001 or more population, the registrar 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.

Sec 2.   21 MRSA §632, as last amended by P.L. 1973, c. 414,
§28, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§632.   Schedule of registration: special elections

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

    1.   Election day.   The registrar shall not accept registra-
tions on ←→ election day, except that he shall accept in person
the registration of any person who:

    A.   Has attained his 18th birthday or otherwise qualified
    as a voter since the last business day for accepting regis-
    trations in that municipality, as prescribed in subsection
    2; or

    B.   Attained his 18th birthday while absent from the muni-
    cipality and remained continuously absent from the munici-
    pality until after the last business day for accepting
    registrations in that municipality, as prescribed in sub-
    section 2.

    2.   Municipality of 2.500 or less.   In a municipality of
2,500 or less population, the registrar shall accept registra-
tions during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on
the business day next prior to election day.

    3.   Municipality of more than 2,500.   In a municipality of
more than 2,500 population, the registrar shall accept registra-

tions during the time prescribed by the municipal officers on the 3 business days next prior to election day.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §672, 3rd ¶ from the end, as last amended by P.L. 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 new enrollments; and to accept the registration of any person ~~eligible-to~~ ~~vote-and-to-accept-new-enrollments~~ who:

1. 18th birthday since last business day. Has attained his 18th birthday or otherwise qualified as a voter since the last business day for accepting registrations in that municipality, as prescribed in sections 631 or 632; or

2. 18th birthday while absent from municipality. Attained his 18th birthday while absent from the municipality and remained continuously absent from the municipality until after the last business day for accepting registrations in that municipality, as prescribed in sections 631 or 632.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to delete the provisions of the bill allowing registrations during what had been the "closed period" before the election, the length of which depends on municipal population as set forth in sections 631 or 632.

This amendment, like the bill, restricts registrations on election day, but is more permissive than the bill in this regard.   The amendment would allow registration of persons who turned 18 or otherwise become eligible to vote during the time from the end of the closed period through election day.   The amendment would also allow registration on election day of persons who turned 18 while absent from the municipality and who remained absent until after the close of registration.

                         (Filing No. H-1014)