

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)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 98

H. P. 68

House of Representatives, January 18, 1977

On motion of Mr. Talbot of Portland, reconsidered reference to Committee on Human Resources and on further motion of same gentleman referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Clark of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Provide Accessible Polling Places for the Physically Handicapped
and the Elderly.**

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 604, sub-§ 2, 1st ¶, 3rd sentence is amended to read:

An elderly or physically handicapped voter who wishes to vote at the office of the clerk or at an alternative voting place must notify the clerk of the municipality at least ~~10~~ 30 days prior to the date of any election.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 604, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 26, is amended by adding after the 1st paragraph 2 new paragraphs to read:

Not less than 10 days prior to the date of any election, the clerk shall issue a public notice or announcement designating the location of the polling place or places accessible to physically handicapped and elderly persons. No such notice is required in any municipality in which all polling places are accessible to these persons.

Whenever it becomes necessary to add a voting place in any municipality or relocate an existing one, such a voting place shall be physically accessible to all eligible voters.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill offers 3 amendments, each of which is intended to eliminate a weakness in the existing law.

One lengthens the time period when physically handicapped or elderly voters shall notify the city or town clerk of their need to use a voting place free of architectural barriers. A second requires an advance notice before an election to designate the voting place or places that are accessible, and the third is intended to assure that whenever a voting place originates or whenever one is relocated, it shall be physically accessible to all eligible voters.