

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 286

H. P. 222

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Trafton of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Clarify Voter Registration Procedures.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 101, sub-§ 1 is amended to read:

1. **Oath and evidence may be required.** In making this determination, the registrar may require any person who testifies before him concerning his qualifications or those of another to swear to the truth of his statements. The registrar may also require the person to present documentary evidence of the applicant's qualifications.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 102-A, sub-§ 1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 761, § 9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. **Application.** In addition to the procedure provided by section 102, a person may register to vote by completing an application which shall be designed by the Secretary of State, containing the following information:

- A. First name, middle name or initial, and surname, or first name or initial and middle name, and surname;
- B. Legal address, including street, street number, apartment number, town, county and zip code;
- C. Mailing address;
- D. Date and place of birth;
- E. Sex;
- F. Marital status and name of spouse;
- G. Most recent prior residence where registered to vote, to include name under which registered, if changed, legal address and mailing address;

H. Whether a citizen by birth or naturalization. If by naturalization, the date, place and court of naturalization and the date on which the official empowered to register voters inspected the certificate or certified copy of the court record of naturalization;

I. Notification that failure to complete the entire application may prevent registration;

J. Certification that all information is correct, sworn before a notary public or justice of the peace; and

K. Date of registration.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 201, sub-§ 1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 761, § 14, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Content of general register. The general register shall contain the following information concerning each person on the voting list on index cards listed alphabetically by surname:

A. First name, middle name or initial, and surname or first name or initial, middle name and surname;

B. Legal address, including street, street number, apartment number, town, county and zip code;

C. Mailing address;

D. Date and place of birth;

E. Sex;

F. Marital status and name of spouse;

G. Most recent prior residence where registered to vote, to include name under which registered, if changed, legal address and mailing address;

H. Whether a citizen by birth or naturalization. If by naturalization, the date, place and court of naturalization and the date on which the official empowered to register voters inspected the certificate or certified copy of the court record of naturalization;

I. Remarks concerning registration or enrollment; and

J. Date of registration.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to clarify voter registration procedures.

Section 1 clarifies a power that is now implicit in the law, the registrar's power to require an applicant for registration to submit documentary evidence.

Sections 2 and 3 repeal and replace the provisions relating to the information required for registration, but, in effect, add only 2 additional pieces of information that are not now listed. In paragraph D, the place of birth is added. A new paragraph F adds "marital status and name of spouse." This will aid registrars in making identifications of voters, especially in larger towns.