

# 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. 1180

S. P. 355

In Senate, March 28, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Merrill of Cumberland.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

---

AN ACT to Permit Voter Registration and Enrollment at the Polls on  
Election Day.

---

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 102-A, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 154, is amended to read:

2. **Placement on voting list.** Upon receipt of the application by the registrar of voters or the board of registration when in open session, **or ward clerk at the clerk's voting place on election day**, the applicant's name shall be entered on the voting lists of the municipality.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 1, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 8, is further amended to read:

He shall accept registrations ~~in person~~ on election day, but not on the business day next prior to it.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 2, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 26, is further amended to read:

He shall accept registrations ~~in person~~ on election day but not on the 3 business days next prior to it.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 3, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 26, is further amended to read:

He shall accept registrations ~~in person~~ on election day but not on the 5 business days next prior to it.

**Sec. 5.** 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 4, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 26, is further amended to read:

He shall accept registrations ~~in person~~ on election day but not on the 7 business days next prior to it.

**Sec. 6.** 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 5, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 414, § 26, is further amended to read:

He shall accept registrations ~~in person~~ on election day but not on the 9 business days next prior to it.

**Sec. 7.** 21 MRSA § 631-A is enacted to read:

**§ 631-A. Registration and enrollment at voting place on election day**

On any general election, primary election or special election day, the warden of each voting district shall accept the registrations at the voting place of that district of any person eligible to vote at the voting place where he registers. The registration procedure shall be that set out in section 102 and the registrar shall insure the presence at each voting place of a justice of the peace or a notary who shall witness the sworn certification that the information on the application is correct and who shall perform this service without charge. A person may enroll in a political party at the same time and place he registers under this section.

**Sec. 8.** 21 MRSA § 801, sub-§ 1, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 33, is further amended to read:

Before the opening of the polls, the clerk shall deliver or cause to be delivered the election materials, **including a sufficient number of voter registration applications and enrollment forms**, marked for each voting place to the warden at that voting place.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for registration and enrollment of voters at the polls on election day. The current requirement is that all election day registrations must be made at the registrar's office on election day, which leads to the registrar's office being vastly overburdened with registrations at the same time it is supposed to be overseeing the election's process. This bill would disperse these election day registrations to the polls where the person registering will actually vote and should greatly reduce the election day workload of the registrar's office of each municipality.