

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-688)
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to H.P. 1117, L.D. 1335,
Bill, "AN ACT to Revise the Election Laws Concerning Political
Activity at Elections and Requirements for Absentee Ballots."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and
inserting in its place the following: 'AN ACT Concerning
Requirements for Absentee Ballots.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything
after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the
following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced
by PL 1975, c. 761, §39, is amended by adding after the first
sentence 2 new sentences to read:

The clerk shall issue to any 3rd person so designated only
enough absentee ballots to insure that such a person shall
not be in possession at any time of more than 10 absentee
ballots for voters in a municipality. Such a 3rd person
shall, unless good cause is shown, return an absentee ballot
to the clerk's office within 5 business days of the date the
absentee ballot was sent or delivered to him or within the
time limits provided in section 1255, whichever is earlier.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§3, as last amended by
PL 1975, c. 761, §40, is further amended by adding at the end
a new paragraph to read:

The clerk shall keep a list of the 3rd persons, designated
in applications or requests, to whom absentee ballots are sent

or delivered pursuant to subsection 2 and of the number of absentee ballots sent or delivered to such persons. Such 3rd persons shall not be in possession at any time of more than 10 absentee ballots for voters in a municipality.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §1579, sub-§30 is enacted to read:

30. Return of absentee ballots. A 3rd person, designated in an application or request for an absentee ballot and to whom the clerk of a municipality furnishes an absentee ballot in accordance with such application or request, who, without good cause, fails to return such absentee ballot to the clerk's office within 5 business days of the date such ballot was sent or delivered to him or within the time limits provided in section 1255, whichever is earlier.'

Statement of Fact

Section 1 would prevent a 3rd person from having more than 10 absentee ballots in his ←——→ possession at any one time and would require such 3rd persons to return absentee ballots to the clerk's office within 5 business days or by the close of the polls, whichever is earlier, unless good cause is shown.

Section 2 requires the clerk to keep a list of 3rd persons to whom absentee ballots are furnished.

Section 3 makes it a Class E crime for a 3rd person to fail, without good cause, to return an absentee ballot to the clerk's office within 5 business days or by the close of the polls, whichever is earlier.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Election Laws.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

6/17/77

(Filing No. H-688)