

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1423

H. P. 924

House of Representatives, April 4, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bustin of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Absentee Ballots for Maine Citizens Overseas.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1253, sub-§ 1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Applications by voters outside the country. In the case of a voter who is temporarily outside the United States or any territory or jurisdiction thereof, a written request for an absentee ballot from the voter, the voter's spouse, a blood relative of the voter or the voter's former guardian is sufficient.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1253, sub-§ 2, 1st ¶, 2nd sentence, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 761, § 39, is amended to read:

The clerk shall include a ballot application to be completed by the person who signed only a written request, unless the written request is sufficient as provided in subsection 1-A.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of the bill is to facilitate absentee voting by Maine voters who are out of the country at the time of an election. The bill would allow an absentee ballot to be provided to such a voter, without a formal application, upon a written request signed by the voter or a member of his family, as specified. This same provision applies now to absentee ballot requests by Maine voters in the armed services.