

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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New Draft of: H. P. 159, L. D. 197

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1865

H. P. 1665

House of Representatives, June 7, 1977

Reported by a Minority from the Committee on Election Laws and printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Registration on Election Day.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 631, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 631. Schedule; regular election

1. Regular election. The registrar shall accept registrations at a regular election according to the schedule prescribed by this section.

2. Ten to 15 days prior to election day. In any municipality the registrar shall accept registrations from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th to 15th business days next prior to election day. The names of such voters shall be placed on the voting list.

3. Nine business days prior to election day. In any municipality the registrar shall accept registrations in person, during such hours as the municipal officers shall prescribe, on the 9 business days next prior to election day.

The names of such voters shall then be recorded as provided in either paragraph A or paragraph B as the municipal officers shall direct.

A. The registrar shall, after finding an applicant qualified, issue a certificate entitling the applicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting place on election day. Only one such certificate may be issued to any person.

B. As an alternative to the method provided in paragraph A, the registrar shall, after finding an applicant qualified, place the names of such voters on a supplemental voting list. Prior to the opening of the polls, the registrar shall forward the supplemental list or lists to the clerk or ward clerk at each voting place. The inclusion of a person's name on that list will entitle the applicant to vote on election day. All references in this Title to the use of the voting list before, during and after election day shall be deemed to include the supplemental voting list as provided in this paragraph.

4. Election day registration. The registrar shall accept in person on election day the registration of any person who has attained 18 years of age within 30 days prior to election day or who has become eligible to vote in that municipality within 30 days prior to election day. The registrar shall issue to each applicant a certificate entitling the applicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting place. Only one such certificate may be issued to any person.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 632, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 414, §§ 27 and 28, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 632. Schedule; special elections

1. Special election. The registrar shall accept registrations at a special election according to the schedule prescribed by this section.

2. Second and 3rd days prior to election. In any municipality the registrar shall accept registrations during such hours as the municipal officers shall prescribe on the 2nd and 3rd business days next prior to the election day. The names of such voters shall be placed in the voting list.

3. Day prior to election. In any municipality the registrar shall accept registrations in person during such hours as the municipal officers shall prescribe on the business day next prior to election day.

The names of such voters shall then be recorded as provided in either paragraph A or paragraph B as the municipal officers shall direct.

A. The registrar shall, after finding an applicant qualified, issue a certificate entitling the applicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting place on election day. Only one such certificate may be issued to any person.

B. As an alternative to the method provided in paragraph A, the registrar shall, after finding an applicant qualified, place the names of such voters on a supplemental voting list. Prior to the opening of the polls, the registrar shall forward the supplemental list or lists to the clerk or ward clerk at each voting place. The inclusion of a person's name on that list will entitle the applicant to vote on election day. All references in this Title to the use of the voting list before, during and after election day shall be deemed to include the supplemental voting list as provided in this paragraph.

4. Election day registration. The registrar shall accept in person on election day the registration of any person who has attained 18 years of age within 30 days prior to election day or who has become eligible to vote in

that municipality within 30 days prior to election day. The registrar shall issue to each applicant a certificate entitling the applicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting place. Only one such certificate may be issued to any person.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 637, as amended by PL 1971, c. 173, is further amended to read:

§ 637. Registrar to check records

Before the close of ~~registrations~~ the period for accepting the registrations of voters to be placed on the voting list prior to any election, the registrar shall review the records of marriage, death, change of name and change of address in the office of the clerk or the assessors, and shall correct the voting list accordingly. In lieu of examining the records in the custody of the clerk, the clerk may provide the registrar with a list, certified by the clerk to be true, of the marriages, deaths and changes which took place during the 2 years next prior to the close of the ~~registrations~~ period for accepting the registrations of voters to be placed on the voting list.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 672, 6th ¶, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 9, is further amended to read:

The registrar of voters or board of registration will hold office hours while the polls are open to correct any error in or change a name or address on the voting list; to accept the registration of any person ~~eligible to vote~~ who has attained his 18th birthday within 30 days prior to election day or of any person who has become eligible to vote in (name of municipality) within 30 days prior to election day; and to accept new enrollments.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The new draft repeals registrations on election day, except for those who turn 18 or move to the municipality within 30 days of election day. It also establishes uniform periods for accepting registrations for municipalities of all sizes. In a regular election, the voting list will be closed 10 business days before the election. During the next 9 business days up to election day persons can register. Their names will be placed on a supplemental voting list or they will be given certificates to take to the polls.