

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-917)
109TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1641, L.D. 1750, Bill, "AN ACT to Revise the Administration of the Election Laws."

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §43, sub-§4, ¶A, is amended to read:

A. Exceptions. ~~Section 42 does not apply to a board of registration.~~ The chairman of the board may designate himself or another member of the board to accept the application of a disabled person for registration under section 72.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §43, sub-§6, is enacted to read:

6. Deputies for boards of registration. By unanimous vote of the board of registration, the board may appoint one or more deputies to serve the board.

A. Qualifications and compensation.

(1) Section 41, subsections 1, 3 and 5 apply to deputies of boards of registration.

(2) Deputies shall be appointed so that the number of board members, plus deputies enrolled in one of the 2 major parties, does not exceed the number of board members, plus deputies enrolled in the other major party, by more than one.

B. Duties of deputies serving boards. Deputies may perform duties assigned by unanimous vote of the board, including the acceptance of registrations and enrollments, as if the board itself had acted. Nothing in this section should be construed as limiting the authority of the board to remove names from the voting list.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. 21 MRSA §639, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 106, is amended to read:

§639. Municipal caucus

The At least 48 hours in advance of the caucus, the municipal officials shall designate the hours that the registrar or board of registration shall meet in session on the day of official party caucuses ~~on-hours-so-designated-by-municipal-officials~~ to accept registrations and enrollments and all persons so registered and enrolled shall be allowed to participate in their party caucus. '

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 6. 21 MRSA §1033, as amended by PL 1973, c. 585, §12, is repealed. '

Further amend the Bill by inserting at the end before the emergency clause the following:

'Sec. 7. 21 MRSA §1442-A, 2nd sentence, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 496, §35, is amended to read:

The nomination process shall be in the same manner as provided by chapter 17 except all petitions shall be filed by 5 p.m. on the date of prescribed in the Governor's proclamation by which all political committees shall have met as provided in sections 1471, 1473, 1474, 1501, 1502, 1531, 1532 and 1533.'

Further amend the Bill by renumbering the sections to read consecutively.

Statement of Fact

This amendment makes specific who may accept registration applications for disabled persons. By unanimous vote, registrars may designate deputies to serve the board. Municipal officials shall designate the hours when registrars shall meet on caucus dates, at least 24 hours before the date. This is to permit the public to be better informed. The amendment also deletes the requirement for bonding by a municipality for voting machines. This latter provision makes the law on voting machines consistent with voting devices. The latter was repealed in L.D. 1816. This amendment will also make the date for filing a nomination petition by independent candidates consistent with that for nomination by party to fill a vacancy.