

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 192

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-254)
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 170,
L.D. 192, Bill, "AN ACT to Permit Persons who Register Voters on
Election Day to Vote by Absentee Ballot."

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the
first paragraph (—————) and inserting in its place the
following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1, sub-§1, as last amended by PL 1979,
c. 177, is further amended to read:

1. Absentee voter. "Absentee voter" means a person who is
unable to cast his ballot in the municipality in which he is
registered to vote, for one of the following reasons: Absence from the
municipality during the time the polls are open on election day;
physical incapacity not adversely affecting his soundness of mind;
religious belief which prohibits his doing so; confinement in a
jail or penal institution; ~~and~~ unreasonable distance from the polls,
if he is a resident of a township or a coastal island ward or
district; or that the person was engaged in registering voters for
that election on election day at the office of the registrar or
the board of registration and as a result was unable to get to his
voting place while the polls were open.

Sec. 2. 21 MRS §1258 is amended to read:

§1258. Personal vote required when possible

A person who has voted by absentee ballot, but who is present in the municipality and able to vote in person at the voting place on election day must do so, unless that person is engaged in registering voters for that election on election day at the office of the registrar or the board of registration and as a result is unable to get to his voting place while the polls are open.

Sec. 3. 21 MRS §1579, sub-§4, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 496, §38 is amended to read:

4. Failure to vote in person. A person who has voted by absentee ballot but who is present and able to vote in person at the proper voting place on election day and fails to do so, unless that person was engaged in registering voters for that election on election day at the office of the registrar or the board of registration and as a result was unable to get to his voting place while the polls were open;

Statement of Fact

This amendment adds a section to the bill which amends the definition of "absentee voter," presently contained in the election laws, by adding the same language used in the bill to define the exception the bill creates. This amendment was suggested by the office of the Secretary of State.

Filed by Ms. Benoit of South Portland.
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

4/28/81

(Filing No. H-254)