

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 344

H. P. 312

House of Representatives, January 21, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Berube of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Concerning Absentee Voting.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1252, sub-§ 2, as amended by PL 1973, c. 718, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

Any person 65 years of age or older is not required to designate the reason for requesting an absentee ballot other than indicating his age.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1252, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 696, § 177, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Application or request received. On receipt of a completed application or a request for an absentee ballot signed by the applicant, the clerk shall send or deliver an absentee ballot and return envelope forthwith to the applicant. 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. The clerk shall type or write in ink the name and the legal address of the person for whom the absentee ballot is intended in the upper left hand section of all return envelopes.

If the clerk receives a duplicate application from a person from whom the clerk has received a return envelope apparently containing an absentee ballot, the clerk shall not furnish another absentee ballot for such person.

The clerk may issue a 2nd absentee ballot to an applicant if the applicant in person or in writing requests one and if such applicant states good cause, including, but not limited to, loss of, spoiling of or damage to the first absentee ballot.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 1253, sub-§ 3, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 500, § 2, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 1261, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 52, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

If a voter is 65 years of age or older he shall indicate his age, which constitutes sufficient reason for voting absentee.

Sec. 5. 21 MRSA § 1579, sub-§ 15, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 696, § 179, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill removes the authorization for 3rd persons to receive absentee ballots from clerks, deliver them to the voter and return them to the clerk. It also allows voters who are 65 or older to vote by absentee ballot without providing any other reason.