

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 367**

S. P. 159

In Senate, January 22, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Minkowsky of Androscoggin.

Cosponsor: Representative Berube of Lewiston.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Allow Persons 60 Years of Age or Over to Vote by Absentee Ballot.**

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

21 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 1, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 1, 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; **the person is 60 years of age or older**; and unreasonable distance from the polls, if he is a resident of a township.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Many of our elderly citizens have days when they do not feel well enough to go out and simply do not like to go to crowded places. These elderly citizens should be able to vote by absentee ballot in the privacy of their own home and not be forced to go to the polls on election day.