

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 392

H. P. 344

House of Representatives, January 22, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Improve Voter Registration Access for Potential Absentee Voters.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 104, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 339, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

Applications completed pursuant to section 631, subsections 5 and 632, subsection 6 may be delivered during the closed period for immediate placement on the voting list.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 631, sub-§ 5 is enacted to read:

5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters. The registrar shall accept registrations pursuant to section 102-A at any time, including election day, provided the applicant otherwise qualified as an absentee voter. The receipt of a completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a presumption of qualification under this subsection.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 632, sub-§ 6 is enacted to read:

6. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters. The registrar shall accept registrations pursuant to section 102-A at any time, including election day, provided the applicant otherwise qualifies as an absentee voter. The receipt of a completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a presumption of qualification under this subsection.

STATEMENT OF FACT

People who become ill or incapacitated just before election day, and who could only vote by absentee ballot, are currently unable to register to vote since that must be done in person during this period. This bill would allow these citizens the opportunity to register and then vote as any absentee voter.