

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 587

6
7 H.P. 490

House of Representatives, February 7, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on February 7, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Election Laws and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Diamond of Bangor.

Cosponsors: Representative Rotondi of Athens, Representative Joseph of
11 Waterville and Representative Soucy of Kittery.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Provide Early Access to
18 Absentee Ballots by the Armed Forces.
19

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

22 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§1, ¶A is enacted to read:

23 A. Prior to the availability of absentee ballots
24 described in this subsection, the Secretary of
25 State shall furnish each municipality with a
26 reasonable number of blank absentee ballots for
27 the exclusive use of the Armed Forces. These
28 ballots shall be similar to regular ballots,
29 except that no candidate names shall be printed.
30 The Secretary of State shall prepare a ballot
31 listing all offices to be selected with a space
32 after each office to write in the voter's prefer-
33 ence. The following instructions must be printed
34 in bold type at the top of the ballot: YOU MAY

1 VOTE FOR A PERSON BY PLACING THAT PERSON'S NAME
2 AND MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE IN THE BLANK SPACE
3 UNDER THE PROPER OFFICE.

4 STATEMENT OF FACT

5 The purpose of this bill is to allow the Secre-
6 tary of State to prepare ballots indicating the offi-
7 ces which will be voted upon in an election, without
8 including the names of candidates. This ballot would
9 be sent to overseas voters several months before the
10 election so that they could enter the names of the
11 candidates on the ballot and return the ballot to the
12 town clerk of the voter's municipality. This method
13 has been suggested by the Federal Voting Assistance
14 Office to assist overseas voters in completing absen-
15 tee ballots in a timely manner.

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