

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 937

(Filing No. H- 298)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
111TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 728,
L.D. 937, Bill, "AN ACT to Make Voting Places more
Accessible to the Elderly and Handicapped."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of section 1
and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §604, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by
PL 1975, c. 165, §2, is amended to read:

A. "Accessible voting place" means a voting
place in a building in which has at least one
entrance that provides access, by ramp or other-
wise, to physically handicapped or elderly voters
and in which the voting place is located on the
first floor or is accessible by elevator or in a
building which meets the part of the building set
aside for voting meets the requirements for
accessible routes of the 1981 standards of con-
struction described in Title 25, chapter 331.'

Further amend the Bill in section 2 in subsection
2 by adding at the end the following:

'A. The Secretary of State shall grant a waiver
from the requirements of this subsection to any
municipality which can satisfactorily demonstrate
that those requirements ought not to apply or
would create an extreme hardship. Factors which
the Secretary of State may consider in making
that determination include, but are not limited
to, the following: The municipality has no handi-
capped voters and the physical limitations of a
voting place make it impractical to provide an
accessible voting place as described in subsec-
tion 1.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 728, L.D. 937

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that
3 only that part of a building set aside as the voting
4 place must be accessible to disabled and elderly per-
5 sons and that only the accessible route standard of
6 construction must be satisfied.

7 The amendment also allows for a waiver to be
8 granted by the Secretary of State to towns which
9 satisfactorily demonstrate that the requirement to
10 provide at least one accessible voting place in the
11 town ought not to apply.

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Reported by Report "B" of the Committee on Election Laws
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