

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1060

6
7 H.P. 820

House of Representatives, March 4, 1983

8 On Motion of Representative Nadeau of Lewiston, referred to the
9 Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nadeau of Lewiston.

Cosponsors: Representative Rolde of York and Senator Carpenter of
Aroostook.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Promote Better Voter
18 Participation and to Designate the Day of
19 the State General Election a State Holiday.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §120 is enacted to read:

24 §120. General election day

25 The day of the statewide general election shall
26 be a state holiday. Prior to the holiday the Governor
27 shall issue a proclamation inviting and urging the
28 people of the State to use the opportunity offered by
29 the holiday to vote.

30 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1, sub-§1, as amended by PL
31 1981, c. 256, §1, is repealed and the following
32 enacted in its place:

1 1. Absentee voter. Absentee voter means a person
2 who votes at other than a voting place.

3 Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §3 is amended to read:

4 §3. Date falling on holiday

5 When the date on which an act must be performed
6 or an event must take place falls on a Saturday,
7 Sunday or legal holiday, other than election day, the
8 act shall be performed or the event shall take place
9 on the next following business day.

10 Sec. 4. 21 MRSA §246, sub-§2, as repealed and
11 replaced by PL 1977, c. 496, §10, is amended to read:

12 2. Absentee voting. If he is unable to be
13 present at the voting place on election day, he He
14 may vote by absentee ballot.

15 Sec. 5. 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§2, as amended by PL
16 1981, c. 436, §3, is further amended to read:

17 2. Content of application. The application must
18 contain a place for the following: Name of applicant,
19 address, address to which ballot is to be sent, title
20 and year of election at which ballot is to be cast,
21 name of party in which he is or desires to be
22 enrolled, date of application and signature of appli-
23 cant. It must contain a place for ~~the applicant to~~
24 ~~designate the reason for requesting an absentee bal-~~
25 ~~lot;~~ the name of a person to whom his the applicant's
26 ballot may be delivered and a place for the registrar
27 to certify whether the applicant is registered and
28 the party in which he is or desires to be enrolled.
29 It shall contain a conspicuously-printed summary
30 warning of the provisions of Title 17-A, section 703.

31 Sec. 6. 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§2-A, as amended by
32 PL 1981, c. 436, §4, is further amended to read:

33 2-A. Form of envelope. The return envelope in
34 which the absentee ballot is to be placed shall
35 include on its outside a conspicuously printed sum-
36 mary warning to the voter of the provisions of
37 ~~section 1258,~~ section 1579, ~~subsections 4 and~~ subsec-
38 tion 15, and Title 17-A, section 703.

1 legal holiday and courts are closed and county offi-
2 ces may be closed. The bill requires the Governor to
3 issue a proclamation encouraging voters to vote on
4 that day. The bill encourages voter participation by
5 lessening the burden on absentee voters. Any eligible
6 voter would be able to vote absentee.

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