## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST REGULAR	SESSION
ONE H	HUNDRED AND ELEVEN	TH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Docu	ment	No. 1060
H.P. 820	House	of Representatives, March 4, 1983
	Representative Nadeau of ction Laws. Sent up for co	Lewiston, referred to the ncurrence and ordered printed.
		EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
	esentative Nadeau of Lewi Representative Rolde of Yo	ston. ork and Senator Carpenter of
	STATE OF MA	INE
иіи	IN THE YEAR OF (	
Partici	N ACT to Promote Bo pation and to Des ce General Election	
Be it enacted follows:	l by the People of	the State of Maine as
Sec. 1.	1 MRSA §120 is en	acted to read:
§120. General	election day	
be a state ho shall issue a	oliday. Prior to the proclamation invested to use the	general election shall he holiday the Governor iting and urging the opportunity offered by
	s, §1, is repeale	b-§1, as amended by PL ed and the following

- 1 <u>l. Absentee voter. Absentee voter means a person</u>
  2 who votes at other than a voting place.
- 3 Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §3 is amended to read:
  - §3. Date falling on holiday

- When the date on which an act must be performed or an event must take place falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, other than election day, the act shall be performed or the event shall take place 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- 10 Sec. 4. 21 MRSA §246, sub-§2, as repealed and 11 replaced by PL 1977, c. 496, §10, is amended to read: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:
  - 2. Content of application. The application must contain a place for the following: Name of applicant, address, address to which ballot is to be sent, title and year of election at which ballot is to be cast, name of party in which he is or desires to be enrolled, date of application and signature of applicant. It must contain a place for the applicant to designate the reason for requesting an absentee baltet, the name of a person to whom his the applicant's ballot may be delivered and a place for the registrar to certify whether the applicant is registered and the party in which he is or desires to be enrolled. It shall contain a conspicuously-printed summary 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:
- 2-A. Form of envelope. The return envelope in which the absentee ballot is to be placed shall include on its outside a conspicuously printed summary warning to the voter of the provisions of section 1258, section 1579, subsections 4 and subsection 15, and Title 17-A, section 703.

- 1 Sec. 7. 21 MRSA §1253, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1977, c. 496, §26, is further amended to read:
- Absentee voting in clerk's office. A person 3 4 who wishes to vote by absentee ballot because he will 5 not be present in the municipality or able to vote in person at the voting place on election day may, with-6 7 out completing an application, vote by absentee ballot before the clerk or deputy clerk of the munici-8 pality in the clerk's office during regular business 9 hours. The method of voting shall otherwise be as 10 prescribed in this chapter. 11
- The clerk or deputy clerk shall determine whether the affidavit on the return envelope is properly completed.
- 15 Sec. 8. 21 MRSA §1258, as amended by PL 1981, c. 16 256, §2, is repealed.
- 17 Sec. 9. 21 MRSA §1261, as amended by PL 1975, c. 18 761, §52, is amended to read:

## §1261. Irregularities disregarded

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20 An absentee ballot may not be rejected for any 21 immaterial irregularity in completing the application 22 or affidavit on the return envelope. Lack of 23 name or title of a subscribing official on the envelope of an absentee ballot as required by section 1254, subsection 4, is not an immaterial irregularity 24 25 26 under this section. The following information must be contained on the envelope in order for the ballot 27 28 to be accepted: Voter's name and legal address typed or written in ink by the clerk in the upper left-hand 29 30 corner; voter's signature; voter's reason for voting absentee; and certifying official's signature. 31

32 Sec. 10. 21 MRSA §1579, sub-§4, as amended by PL 33 1981, c. 256, §3, is repealed.

## 34 STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to increase voter turnout. The bill makes the day of the statewide general election a state holiday. It is currently a

legal holiday and courts are closed and county offices may be closed. The bill requires the Governor to issue a proclamation encouraging voters to vote on that day. The bill encourages voter participation by lessening the burden on absentee voters. Any eligible voter would be able to vote absentee.

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