

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 113

6
7 H.P. 93

House of Representatives, January 22, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Vose of Eastport.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Protect the Voting Rights of
18 Township Residents.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §246, as amended by PL 1983, c.
23 717, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its
24 place:

25 §246. Special provisions for township residents

26 In accordance with section 1573, registration,
27 enrollment and voting by the resident of a township
28 are governed by the following provisions.

29 1. Registration and enrollment. He may regis-
30 ter, enroll and vote in any town within his represen-
31 tative district or, if he lives in a portion of a
32 township not easily accessible to a town within his
33 representative district, he may register, enroll and
34 vote in a more convenient town within or outside the

1 county. He may register and enroll on election day.
2 The registrar shall place the letter "T" beside his
3 name on the voting list and on the general register.

4 2. Voting. He may vote in the town in which he
5 is registered in any election for offices of or ques-
6 tions concerning the unorganized territory in which
7 he resides. He may not vote at a municipal election
8 or on a liquor option question. If he registers in a
9 town outside his representative district, state sena-
10 torial district or county, he may vote for the of-
11 fices of Representative to the Legislature, State
12 Senator or any county office by using a ballot pro-
13 vided under section 601-A. If he is unable to be
14 present at the voting place on election day, he may
15 vote by absentee ballot.

16 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §601-A is enacted to read:

17 §601-A. Special provisions for out-of-district vot-
18 ers

19 A voter who registers and votes under section 246
20 in a municipality outside his representative dis-
21 trict, state senatorial district or county, may vote
22 for the offices of Representative to the Legislature,
23 State Senator or any county office by using a ballot
24 obtained under this section.

25 1. Clerk to notify. The clerk of a municipality
26 in which voters have registered or enrolled under
27 section 246 shall notify the Secretary of State of
28 those registrations and enrollments at least 120 days
29 before any election.

30 2. Secretary of State to furnish ballots. The
31 Secretary of State shall provide to the clerk at
32 least 75 ballots for every 50 votes cast at that vot-
33 ing place by persons registered or enrolled under
34 section 246 in the last election of that type. These
35 ballots shall contain the names of the nominees or
36 candidates for offices in the electoral divisions in
37 which the voters registered under section 246 reside.

38 3. Duties of election clerk. The election clerk
39 in charge of the ballots at each voting place shall
40 ensure that each voter, registered in that municipal-

1 ity under section 246, who resides in a different
2 electoral division obtains and uses the proper ballot
3 provided under this section.

4 4. How furnished. Ballots provided under this
5 section shall be furnished to voting places in ac-
6 cordance with section 601.

7 Sec. 3. 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§1, ¶B is enacted to
8 read:

9 B. The Secretary of State shall provide a rea-
10 sonable number of absentee ballots for township
11 residents who are registered or enrolled in a mu-
12 nicipality outside their electoral divisions un-
13 der section 246. These ballots shall contain the
14 names of the nominees or candidates for offices
15 in the electoral divisions in which the voters
16 reside.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

18 This bill amends the election laws to allow town-
19 ship residents who register and vote in a municipali-
20 ty outside of their electoral districts to retain the
21 votes for offices in those districts. It permits
22 voters who are accustomed to voting in a convenient
23 place outside of their district to continue voting
24 there without being disenfranchised for some offices
25 or severely inconvenienced by being forced to travel
26 miles out of their way. The bill encourages voting
27 by these persons by allowing them to vote in a conve-
28 nient place for the offices that concern them most.

29 0008010485