

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 114

6  
7 H.P. 94

House of Representatives, January 22, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Foss of Yarmouth.

11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Establish the Last Friday in  
18 October Preceding a General Election  
19 as the Final Day for Voter  
20 Registration.  
21

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

24 21 MRSA §631, as amended by PL 1983, c. 280, §2,  
25 is further amended to read:

26 §631. Schedule; regular election

27 1. General election. The registrar shall accept  
28 registrations at a regular election according to the  
29 schedule prescribed by this section general election  
30 the last Friday in October immediately preceding the  
31 general election. The names of those voters shall be  
32 placed on the voting list.

33 2. Regular election other than a general elec-  
34 tion; names to be placed on voting list. The regis-

1 trar shall accept registrations at a regular election  
2 other than a general election according to the sched-  
3 ule set out in this subsection.

4 A. In a municipality of 2,500 or less popula-  
5 tion, he shall accept registrations during the  
6 time prescribed by the municipal officers on at  
7 least one business day during the week before  
8 election day. The names of such voters shall be  
9 placed on the voting list.

10 The registrar shall accept the registrations of  
11 applicants who appear in person on the business  
12 day next prior to election day. The names of such  
13 voters shall be recorded as provided in subsec-  
14 tion 3.

15 B. In a municipality of 2,501 to 5,000 popula-  
16 tion, the registrar shall accept registrations  
17 from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th  
18 to 6th business days next prior to election day.  
19 The names of such voters shall be placed on the  
20 voting list.

21 The registrar shall accept the registrations of  
22 applicants who appear in person on the 3 business  
23 days next prior to election day. The names of  
24 such voters shall be recorded as provided in sub-  
25 section 3.

26 C. In a municipality of 5,001 to 10,000 popula-  
27 tion, the registrar shall accept registrations  
28 from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 6th  
29 to 10th business days next prior to election day.  
30 The names of such voters shall be placed on the  
31 voting list.

32 The registrar shall accept the registrations of  
33 applicants who appear in person on the 5 business  
34 days next prior to election day. The names of  
35 such voters shall be recorded as provided in sub-  
36 section 3.

37 D. In a municipality of 10,001 to 24,000 popula-  
38 tion, the registrar shall accept registrations  
39 from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 8th  
40 to 14th business days next prior to election day.

1 The names of such voters shall be placed on the  
2 voting list.

3 The registrar shall accept the registrations of  
4 applicants who appear in person on the 7 business  
5 days next prior to election day. The names of  
6 such voters shall be recorded as provided in sub-  
7 section 3.

8 E. In a municipality of 24,001 or more popula-  
9 tion, the registrar shall accept registrations  
10 from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 10th  
11 to 18th business days next prior to election day.  
12 The names of such voters shall be placed on the  
13 voting list.

14 The registrar shall accept the registrations of  
15 applicants who appear in person on the 9 business  
16 days next prior to election day. The names of  
17 such voters shall be recorded as provided in sub-  
18 section 3.

19 3. Registrations in person. The At regular elec-  
20 tions other than general elections, the names of vot-  
21 ers who register by appearing in person before the  
22 registrar during the business days before election  
23 day as provided in subsection 2 shall be recorded as  
24 provided in either paragraph A or paragraph B, as the  
25 municipal officers shall direct.

26 A. The registrar shall, after finding an appli-  
27 cant qualified, issue a certificate entitling the  
28 applicant to be placed on the voting list at the  
29 voting place on election day. Only one such cer-  
30 tificate may be issued to any person.

31 B. As an alternative to the method provided in  
32 paragraph A, the registrar shall, after finding  
33 an applicant qualified, place the names of such  
34 voters on a supplemental voting list. Prior to  
35 the opening of the polls, the registrar shall  
36 forward the supplemental list or lists to the  
37 clerk or ward clerk at each voting place. The in-  
38 clusion of a person's name on that list will en-  
39 title the applicant to vote on election day. All  
40 references in this Title to the use of the voting  
41 list before, during and after election day shall

1 be deemed to include the supplemental voting list  
2 as provided in this paragraph.

3 4. Election day registration. The registrar  
4 shall accept registrations of applicants who appear  
5 in person on election day at regular elections other  
6 than general elections. The registrar shall issue to  
7 each such applicant a certificate entitling the ap-  
8 plicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting  
9 place. Only one such certificate may be issued to any  
10 person.

11 5. Alternative registration schedule for absen-  
12 tee voters. ~~The At regular elections other than gen-~~  
13 ~~eral elections,~~ the registrar shall accept registra-  
14 tions pursuant to section 102-A at any time, includ-  
15 ing election day, provided that the applicant other-  
16 wise qualifies as an absentee voter. The receipt of  
17 a completed absentee ballot application by the clerk  
18 shall establish a presumption of qualification under  
19 this subsection.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 The purpose of this bill is to establish the last  
22 Friday in October preceding a general election as the  
23 last day for voter registration. This bill will help  
24 eliminate confusion on election day and will enable  
25 municipal officials to adequately confirm the creden-  
26 tials of the registering voters.

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