

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 217

6
7 H.P. 183

House of Representatives, January 29, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Pouliot of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representative Telow of Lewiston.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Remove the Reasons Required for
18 Voting by Absentee Ballot.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §1, sub-§1, as amended by PL
23 1981, c. 256, §1, is further amended to read:

24 1. Absentee voter. "Absentee voter" means a per-
25 son who is unable to cast his ballot in the munici-
26 pality in which he is registered to vote, for one of
27 the following reasons: Absence from the municipality
28 during the time the polls are open on election day;
29 physical incapacity not adversely affecting his
30 soundness of mind; religious belief which prohibits
31 his doing so; confinement in a jail or penal institu-
32 tion; unreasonable distance from the polls; if he is
33 a resident of a township or a coastal island ward or
34 district; or that the person was engaged in register-
35 ing voters for that election on election day at the
36 office of the registrar or the board of registration

1 and as a result was unable to get to his voting place
2 while the polls were open.

3 Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1252, sub-§2, as amended by PL
4 1981, c. 436, §3, is further amended to read:

5 2. Content of application. The application must
6 contain a place for the following: Name of applicant,
7 address, address to which ballot is to be sent, title
8 and year of election at which ballot is to be cast,
9 name of party in which he is or desires to be en-
10 rolled, date of application and signature of appli-
11 cant. It must contain a place for the applicant to
12 designate the reason for requesting an absentee bal-
13 let; the name of a person to whom his ballot may be
14 delivered and a place for the registrar to certify
15 whether the applicant is registered and the party in
16 which he is or desires to be enrolled. It shall con-
17 tain a conspicuously-printed summary warning of the
18 provisions of Title 17-A, section 703.

19 STATEMENT OF FACT

20 The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the rea-
21 sons for requesting an absentee ballot. This allows
22 anyone who requests to vote by absentee ballot, for
23 whatever reason, to do so without having to state the
24 reason and include it on the application.

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