

# 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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 777

H.P. 580 House of Representatives, March 13, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered  
printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative BAKER of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Require Employers to Give Employees  
2 4 Hours Leave on Election Day for the  
3 Purpose of Voting.  
4

5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
6 follows:

7 26 MRSA c. 7, sub-c. X is enacted to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER X

9 LEAVE FOR VOTING PURPOSES

10 §876. Leave for voting purposes

11 Every employer must give 4 consecutive hours of  
12 leave for the purpose of voting to any employee who  
13 is qualified to vote while the polls are open on the

1 day of any statewide election. If the hours of em-  
2 ployment do not allow for 4 consecutive hours, the  
3 employer shall allow the employee such additional  
4 time for voting as may be necessary to provide 4 con-  
5 secutive hours.

6 §877. No penalty for absence

7 No employer may make any deduction from the pay  
8 of an employee or impose upon or exact from an em-  
9 ployee any penalty by reason of his absence from work  
10 during the consecutive hours that employer is re-  
11 quired to allow the employee pursuant to section 876.

12 §878. Convenience of employer

13 The hours for voting referred to in section 876  
14 shall be granted at the convenience of the employer.

15 §879. Violation

16 Any employer who, directly or indirectly, refuses  
17 or by intimidation, undue influence or in any other  
18 way interferes with the granting to any elector in  
19 his employ of the consecutive hours for voting, as  
20 provided in this subchapter, commits a civil viola-  
21 tion for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$100 may be  
22 adjudged.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           The purpose of this bill is to require employers  
3 to give employees 4 consecutive hours of leave to  
4 vote during any statewide election. This bill is  
5 modeled on federal Canadian legislation. The right  
6 that employees have time off for voting was intro-  
7 duced in Canada at the federal level in 1915, when  
8 one hour was provided for this purpose; in 1920 it  
9 was expanded to 2 hours; in 1948 it was increased to  
10 3 hours; and in 1969 and 1970 it was expanded to the  
11 present 4 hours.

12           Under this bill, the time is to be allowed at the  
13 convenience of the employer and the employee may not  
14 be penalized or lose pay as a result of his absence  
15 from work during any part or all of the 4 consecutive  
16 hours allowed to him. An employer who interferes  
17 with the granting of the hours to vote will be sub-  
18 ject to a forfeiture not to exceed \$100.

19

0552021887