

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1712  
(Filing No. H-245 )

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
113TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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HOUSE AMENDMENT "<sup>A</sup>" to HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to  
H.P. 1254, L.D. 1712, Bill, "AN ACT to Prohibit Can-  
didates from Receiving, Witnessing or Accepting Ab-  
sentee Ballots."

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Amend the amendment in subsection 2 by striking  
out all of paragraph C (page 1, lines 28 to 32 in  
amendment) and inserting in its place the following:

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'C. A person who delivers, receives, accepts,  
notarizes or witnesses an absentee ballot, other  
than his own absentee ballot, for compensation  
other than reasonable reimbursement for actual  
meals and mileage. This paragraph does not apply  
to a governmental employee handling ballots in  
the course of his official duties or any person  
who handles absentee ballots before the unvoted  
ballots are delivered to the municipality or af-  
ter the voted ballots are returned to the clerk.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment clarifies that the only persons who may handle absentee ballots and be paid for doing so are:

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1. Governmental employees such as municipal clerks and their deputies or assistants, federal post office employees and the Secretary of State; and

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2. Anyone who handles the blank ballots before the ballots are delivered to the municipality for distribution to the voters, or after the ballots are filled out by the voters and returned to the clerk. These people include the people hired to prepare and deliver the blank ballots, and the people who deliver the voted ballots, on which the clerk has written "OK", to be counted, as well as those who count the ballots.

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This amendment also clarifies that any other person who accepts compensation, other than reasonable reimbursement of actual meals and mileage, for handling ballots commits a Class D crime.

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