

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 794, L.D. 1106, Bill, "An Act to Allow Municipal Clerks to Inspect Blank Ballots Prior to Election Day"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Allow Municipal Clerks to Inspect Sample Ballots before Election Day'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §606, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Sample ballots. The Secretary of State shall affix a sealed envelope containing samples of each type of ballot packed inside to the outside of every package or box of ballots sent to a voting place. The Secretary of State shall authorize preparation of the sample ballots which shall be printed concurrently with the regular ballots. A sample ballot must be substantially the same as the type of ballot it exemplifies, except that:

A. The words "SAMPLE BALLOT" in bold type and the name of the voting district must be printed on each sample ballot.

B. The facsimile of the signature of the Secretary of State must not be printed on a sample ballot.

C. A sample ballot must be incapable of being cast using a voting machine or electronic voting system.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §606, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Receipt issued: inspection of sample ballots. The clerk shall immediately send the Secretary of State a receipt for the ballots the clerk receives. Upon receipt of a package or box containing ballots, the clerk shall, in the presence of one or more witnesses, open the sealed envelope containing sample ballots described in subsection 2-A affixed to that package or box. The clerk shall immediately notify the Secretary of State if a sample ballot differs materially from the appropriate specimen ballot, described in section 603.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1990-91

**SECRETARY OF STATE,
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration -
Secretary of State**

All Other

\$4,000

Provides funds for the printing costs of required sample ballots.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to affix to each box or package of ballots shipped to a voting place a sample of each type of ballot packed inside that box or package. The amendment requires municipal clerks to inspect these samples on receipt of a box or package containing ballots. The amendment requires that clerks report to the Secretary of State any discrepancy between the sample and the regular ballot, as determined by the former's resemblance to the appropriate specimen ballot. The amendment also dictates the form of a sample ballot. The amendment also includes an appropriation of \$4,000 to the Secretary of State to cover the costs of producing sample ballots for elections in fiscal year 1990-91.

Reported by the Committee on Legal Affairs
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