

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 1282

H.P. 916

House of Representatives, April 24, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPBURN of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Representative PAUL of Sanford and Representative TUPPER of Orrington.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**An Act to Allow Municipalities to Remove Nonvoter Names from  
Voting Lists.**

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1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **21-A MRSA §161, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

5 6. Removal; failure to vote in presidential election. The  
7 registrar may request permission of the governing body of the  
9 municipality to remove from the voting list the name of any  
11 person who did not vote in the previous presidential election.  
13 Upon a majority vote of the governing body of the municipality,  
15 the registrar may remove those names from the voting list.  
17 Notwithstanding section 162, the registrar shall provide notice  
19 of removal under this subsection by posting, at the municipal  
21 offices or other appropriate public place, the name of any person  
23 removed from the voting list in lieu of sending notice of removal  
25 to that person. The registrar may remove the name of any voter  
27 from the voting list only after such a name has been publicly  
29 posted for 30 days.

19 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

21 Many municipalities are finding it cumbersome and expensive  
23 to maintain accurate lists of registered voters, particularly in  
25 areas of high growth and population turnover leaving open the  
possibility for large scale absentee ballot fraud.

27 This bill gives municipalities the option of allowing their  
29 registrars to remove from the voting list the name of any person  
31 who did not vote in the preceding general election. The  
33 registrar will be allowed to remove names only after approval  
from the governing body of the town. A list of names to be  
removed will be publicly posted for 30 days before removal may  
take place.