

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1078

S.P. 402

Received by the Secretary, March 11, 1991

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and 1400 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland
Cosponsored by Representative SIMPSON of Casco and Representative KONTOS of
Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**An Act to Allow Ballot Clerks Access to Ballots Up to 2 Hours before
the Polls Open.**

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

21-A MRSA §651, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1985, c. 272, is further amended to read:

2. Election materials distributed and posted. At any time after the materials are received and before the polls are open, the clerk may open the packages or boxes of election materials, break the seals on the packages not marked "ballots," and use the materials for instructional purposes. Then the clerk or his the clerk's designated agents shall post an adequate number of instruction posters, posters of specimen ballots for constitutional resolutions and statewide referenda, including the Attorney General's explanatory statements prepared under Title 1, section 353, materials setting out the full text of constitutional resolutions and statewide referenda, and specimen ballots in the voting room outside the guardrail enclosure. When the polls are opened, or no more than ~~1/2-hour~~ 2 hours before the opening of the polls, the warden shall break the seals on the packages containing the ballots and distribute the ballots to the election clerks in charge of them. The breaking of the seals on the packages containing the ballots is a public proceeding and any member of the public may be present.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill gives ballot clerks more time to correct an error in election ballots by permitting them to have access to the ballots 2 hours before the polls open. Current law permits access to the ballots 1/2 hour before the polls open.