

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 820,
L.D. 2019, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Election Laws"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 1 and
inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §103, as amended by PL 1991, c. 466, §§2
and 3, is further amended to read:

§103. Board of registration in certain cities

1. Population of 5,000 or over. In a city or town that has
a population of 5,000 or over, a board of registration consisting
of 3 members must be appointed as follows: One member ~~nominated~~
appointed by the municipal committee of each of the major
political parties, who must be enrolled in the party of the
municipal committee that ~~nominates~~ appoints the member and
~~appointed-by-the-municipal-officers~~, and the 3rd member nominated
by the clerk of the municipality and appointed by the municipal
officers. The clerk of the municipality may give the municipal
committees of the political parties a list of qualifications
necessary for a person to fulfill the duties of the board of
registration, and the municipal committees shall take those
qualifications into consideration when appointing members to the
board. The 2 members of the board ~~nominated~~ appointed by the
municipal committees of the major political parties may be
members of the political committee ~~nominating~~ appointing them and
of the county or state committees of the political party that
appoints them and may be members of a state or county delegation
to a political convention. When a municipal committee ~~nominates~~
appoints a member to the board of registration, it shall also
~~nominate~~ appoint an alternate board member, who shall serve if
the member ~~nominated~~ appointed by the municipal committee is or
becomes unable to serve.

2 2. **Population of 4,000 to 5,000.** A city or town which that
4 has a population of 4,000 to 5,000 may, by vote of its
legislative body, have a board of registration instead of a
6 registrar.

8 3. **Term of office.** Each member ~~nominated~~ appointed to the
board by the municipal committees of the major political parties
10 ~~and appointed to the board shall serve~~ serves for 3 years and
until ~~his~~ that member's successor is appointed and sworn. The
12 member nominated by the clerk of the municipality and appointed
to the board shall serve for 4 years and until ~~his~~ that member's
14 successor is appointed and sworn.

16 4. **Chair of board.** The member nominated by the clerk of
the municipality is ~~chairman~~ chair of the board.

18 5. **Vacancy.** When there is a vacancy on the board, the
alternate board member ~~nominated~~ appointed by the municipal
20 committee of the political party of the former incumbent shall
serve. If an alternate is not available, the municipal ~~officers~~
22 committee of the party of the former incumbent shall appoint a
qualified person ~~nominated by the municipal committee of the~~
24 ~~party of the former incumbent~~ to fill the vacancy. If the
vacancy is in the office of the chair of the board, the municipal
26 officers shall appoint a qualified person nominated by the clerk
of the municipality to fill the vacancy. Vacancies must be
28 filled for the remainder of the term of office.

30 6. **Hours.** In addition to the schedules under section 122,
each board ~~shall be~~ is open to act upon applications for
32 registration and enrollment on at least one business day in each
of the months of January, February and March in each
34 even-numbered year.

36 7. **Provisions apply to board of registration.** Except as
otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of law
38 pertaining to the registrar apply equally to a board of
registration. A board of registration may only act by unanimous
40 or majority action, except that the ~~chairman~~ chair of the board
may designate ~~himself~~ the chair or another member of the board to
42 accept the application of a disabled person for registration
under section 153.

44 8. **Removal from office.** A member of the board may be
46 removed from office by the appointing authority at any time
during the member's term if the appropriate ~~nominating~~ appointing
48 authority ~~nominates~~ appoints a replacement. The replacement
~~nominee shall serve~~ appointee serves out the remainder of the
50 replaced member's term.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment changes the method of appointing members to the board of voter registration. Currently, the municipal committee of each of the 2 major political parties nominates a member to the board and the municipal officers appoint the party nominees and a 3rd person of the officers' choice. The amendment provides that the municipal committees each appoint a member. The town clerk is permitted to give the municipal committees a list of qualifications needed for the person to carry out the duties of the board, and the committee must take those qualifications into consideration when making appointments. The person is not required to meet those qualifications, however. The municipal committees also have the authority to remove their appointee from the board. The amendment also incorporates the change in the committee amendment that permits the members appointed by the municipal committees to be members of the state or county committee of the party nominating them.

Filed by Rep. Lawrence of Kittery
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
use
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