

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

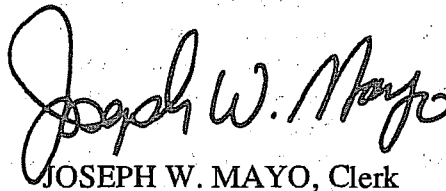
No. 190

H.P. 145

House of Representatives, January 28, 1993

An Act Concerning Absentee Ballot Voting Procedures.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LIPMAN of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative: BAILEY of Township 27.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 466,
§29 is further amending by amending the first paragraph to read:

6 **3. Application or request received.** On receipt of a
8 completed application or a request for an absentee ballot signed
10 by the applicant, the clerk may immediately send or deliver an
12 absentee ballot and return envelope to the applicant or to a 3rd
14 person designated in the application or request. In order to
16 secure an absentee ballot, the designated 3rd person or persons
18 must be the applicant's spouse; the applicant's blood relative or
20 guardian; the absentee ballot clerk; or 2 persons, each
22 representing one of the 2 major political parties. The
24 appointment of representatives from the 2 major political parties
26 proceeds as follows: the clerk shall notify the chairs of the
28 city committees representing the 2 major political parties that a
30 certain number of representatives is needed to secure absentee
32 ballots; the chairs shall each submit to the clerk a list of
34 names totaling the number of representatives requested; and the
36 clerk shall notify those named representatives of their appointed
38 duty. The clerk may not deliver an absentee ballot to any 3rd
40 person whose name appears on an absentee ballot. The clerk may
not deliver to a 3rd person any absentee ballot requested under
subsection 2-A. If a municipal election is to be held on the
same date as a statewide election, absentee ballots for the
municipal and statewide election may be issued in response to the
same application. The clerk shall issue to any 3rd person
designated in an application or request only enough absentee
ballots to insure that that person will not have more than 10
absentee ballots for voters in a municipality at any time. A 3rd
person must, unless good cause is shown, return an absentee
ballot to the clerk's office within the time limits provided in
section 755. The clerk shall include a ballot application to be
completed by the person who signed only a written request, unless
the written request is sufficient under subsection 2. The clerk
shall type or write in ink the name and the legal address of the
person for whom the absentee ballot is intended in the upper left
hand section of all return envelopes.

42 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §753, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 357,
§§10 and 19, is further amended to read:

44 **4. Assistance to certain voters.** A voter who is unable to
46 read or complete his an application because of his physical
48 disability, illiteracy or religious faith, may request another
50 person the voter's spouse; a blood relative or guardian; the
absentee ballot clerk; or 2 persons, ~~either--than--the--veter's~~
employer--or--agent--of--that--employer--or--officer--or--agent--of--the
veter's--union each representing one of the 2 major political
parties pursuant to subsection 3, to assist him in completing the

2 application. That The aide or aides may read the application to
the voter or sign it, or both, according to the voter's
4 instructions, or may assist ~~him~~ the voter in signing the
application. When an aide assists a voter in this way, the aide
6 must write on the application that he the aide has so assisted
the voter in signing the application, the reason the voter was
unable to complete or sign the application, or both, and must
8 sign ~~his-name~~ the application.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill restricts who may deliver absentee ballots to
voters and who may return those ballots to the town clerk to the
16 following persons: the voter's spouse; a blood relative or
guardian; the absentee ballot clerk; or 2 persons, each
18 representing one of the 2 major political parties.