

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. O. S.

L.D. 938

(Filing No. S-139)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
116TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 305, L.D. 938, Bill, "An Act Regarding Visually Impaired Voters"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Mandate preamble. This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 6 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 8 in L.D.) by inserting before the following: "enlarged" the following: 'enlarged specimen ballots and'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §602, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Record. The clerk shall record and report to the Secretary of State the number of enlarged specimen ballots and enlarged ballots made for visually impaired voters.'

Further amend the bill in section 4 by striking out all of subsection 3 and inserting in its place the following:

2 '3. Assistance in reading the ballot. A voter who is
3 illiterate or visually impaired or has another disability that
4 makes it difficult to read a ballot may request that the ballot
5 be read to that voter.'

6 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
7 statement of fact the following:
8

10 **FISCAL NOTE**

12 This bill requires local units of government to make
13 additional expenditures for requiring municipal clerks to provide
14 a voting booth for the visually impaired at each voting place and
15 to provide assistance to certain disabled voters by reading the
16 ballot to them. Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the 2/3 vote
17 of all members elected to each House exempts the State from the
18 constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional local
19 cost of these requirements.
20

22 The additional costs to collect reports regarding the number
23 of enlarged specimen ballots and enlarged ballots made for
24 visually impaired voters by municipal clerks can be absorbed by
25 the Department of the Secretary of State utilizing existing
26 budgeted resources.'

28 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

30 The amendment allows clerks, with the permission of the
31 Secretary of State, to make enlarged specimen ballots as well as
32 enlarged ballots. The Secretary of State will not have to
33 provide the enlarged specimen ballots.
34

36 The amendment adds a reporting requirement. Clerks who make
37 enlarged specimen ballots and enlarged ballots must record and
38 report the number of ballots made to the Secretary of State.

40 The amendment strikes language allowing the reading of a
41 ballot outside the hearing range of others to a voter needing
42 assistance. This removes the opportunity for confusion that
43 might arise, since all voters must cast their ballots behind the
44 guardrail at a polling place, pursuant to federal law.

46 The amendment also adds a fiscal note and a municipal
mandate.

Reported by Senator Carey for the Committee on Legal Affairs.
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