

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 938

S.P. 305

In Senate, March 18, 1993

An Act Regarding Visually Impaired Voters.

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

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative WINN of Glenburn and
Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, MORRISON of Bangor, SAXL of Bangor,
SULLIVAN of Bangor.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §602, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,
§6, is amended to read:

6 **6. Size.** The Secretary of State shall determine the size
of the ballots. With the permission of the Secretary of State,
8 the clerk may make a reasonable number of enlarged ballots in
order to assist voters who are visually impaired.

10 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §603, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,
12 §6, is amended to read:

14 **2. When furnished.** The Secretary of State shall send a
reasonable number of specimen ballots to the clerk for posting,
16 as provided in section 625, and an additional number with the
regular ballots. With the additional number sent, the Secretary
18 of State shall also send a reasonable number of enlarged specimen
ballots for the visually impaired to be placed in the voting
20 booth as provided in section 629, subsection 4.

22 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §629, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

24 **4. Booth for the visually impaired.** The clerk shall equip
at least one of the voting booths at the voting place with an
26 enlarged instruction poster and specimen ballot, a magnifying
device and an adjustable lamp for improved lighting.

28 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §672, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

30 **3. Assistance in reading the ballot.** A voter requesting
32 that the ballot be read to the voter, due to illiteracy, visual
impairment or other disability, may also request that the
34 assistance be provided, if possible, out of the hearing range of
others.

36
38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40 This bill amends the law to accommodate voters with visual
42 impairments. Enlarged ballots are permitted, a voting booth for
the visually impaired at each voting place is required and
confidentiality of reading assistance offered upon request.