

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 1104

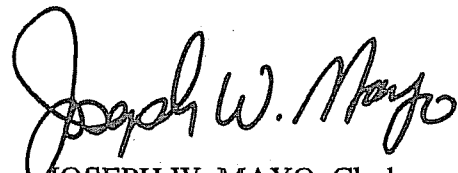
H.P. 818

House of Representatives, April 1, 1993

**An Act to Ensure the Voting Rights of Homeless People.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GEAN of Alfred.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Hallowell, HOGLUND of Portland,  
OLIVER of Portland, Senator: CONLEY of Cumberland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§§27-A and 40-A are enacted to read:

6 27-A. Nontraditional abode. "Nontraditional abode" means a  
shelter, a park, an underpass, a car or another residence of a  
nontraditional nature.

8 40-A. Shelter. "Shelter" means a residential shelter or a  
10 day center that provides only day activities and does not have a  
residential program.

12 Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §112, sub-§15 is enacted to read:

14 15. Nontraditional residence. A person whose domicile is a  
16 nontraditional abode is a resident of the election district where  
that abode is located. A person's residency is not subject to  
18 challenge on the sole basis that the person lives in a  
nontraditional abode.

20 Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

22 10. Provision of voter registration applications. The  
24 Secretary of State shall provide voter registration applications  
to all shelters, soup kitchens and social service agencies upon  
26 request.

28 Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §131 is enacted to read:

30 §131. Right of appeal

32 All applicants refused registration have the right to appeal  
34 the refusal to the district court having jurisdiction over the  
municipality in which the registration was refused within 30 days  
of the refusal.

36  
38 STATEMENT OF FACT

40 The bill ensures the voting rights of homeless individuals  
42 in this State by assisting the homeless in registering to vote  
and by providing a right of judicial review for refused  
registrations.