

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 239

S.P. 99

In Senate, January 24, 1995

An Act to Prohibit Registering to Vote on Election Day.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HALL of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, CAREY of Kennebec,
CARPENTER of York, CASSIDY of Washington, FERGUSON of Oxford, KIEFFER of
Aroostook, PENDEXTER of Cumberland, STEVENS of Androscoggin, Representatives:
BARTH of Bethel, DONNELLY of Presque Isle, HEINO of Boothbay.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A**, as repealed and replaced by
5 PL 1993, c. 695, §5, is amended to read:

6 **1-A. Identification and proof.** Registration applications
7 taken by outside agencies must be transferred to the Secretary of
8 State within 5 days of receipt. An applicant who attempts to
9 register within 20 days of an election must be advised that the
10 registrar might not receive the application before that election,
11 ~~but that the applicant may register in person on election day.~~

12
13 Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from
14 outside agencies 21 days or more before an election must be
15 transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 10 days
16 of receipt. Registration applications received by the Secretary
17 of State from outside agencies 20 days or less before an election
18 must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within
19 5 days of receipt. Registration applications by mail must be
20 received in the registrar's office by the close of business 15
21 days before election day in order for persons to appear on the
22 list of registered voters for that election.

23
24 A person who registers during the 15 days before election day ~~or~~
25 ~~on--election--day~~ shall register in person and show proof of
26 identity and residency. If satisfactory proof of identity and
27 residency can not be provided to the registrar or deputy, the
28 person casts a challenged ballot.

29 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 695,
30 §7, is repealed.

31
32 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

33
34 **4-A. Registration deadline.** The registrar shall accept
35 registrations of applicants through the last business day before
36 election day.

37
38 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§§5 and 6**, as enacted by PL 1985,
39 c. 307, §1, are amended to read:

40
41 **5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.**
42 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 ~~at any~~
43 ~~time,--including--election--day,~~ provided that the applicant
44 otherwise qualifies as an absentee voter. The receipt of a
45 completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a
46 presumption of qualification under this subsection.

47
48 **6. Names to be placed on voting list.** Except as provided in
49 paragraph A, the registrar shall accept registrations on any
50

business day or other day that the clerk's office is open, except
2 election day. The names of any person registering shall must be
4 placed on the voting list.

A. The registrar shall accept only the registrations of
6 applicants who appear in person as follows:

8 (1) In a municipality with a population of 2,500 or
10 less, on the last business day before election day;

12 (2) In a municipality with a population of more than
14 2,500 on the last 5 business days before election day,
from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on at least
3 of these days; and

16 (3) The names of voters registering during these
18 periods shall must be recorded as provided under
subsection 7.

20 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §156, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,
§6, is amended to read:

22 **1. Registration and enrollment.** A township resident may
24 register and enroll in any town within his the resident's
representative district or, if he the resident lives in a portion
26 of a township not easily accessible to a town within his the
resident's representative district, he the resident may register
28 and enroll in a more convenient town within or outside the
county. ~~He--may--register--and--enroll--on--election--day.~~ The
30 registrar shall place the letter "T" beside the voter's name on
the voting list and on the general register.

34 STATEMENT OF FACT

36 This bill prohibits registering to vote on election day.