

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 336

S.P. 150

In Senate, January 31, 1995

### An Act to Change the Date for Voter Registration.

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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 BEGLEY of Lincoln.  
Cosponsored by Senators: CARPENTER of York, LORD of York, Representatives:  
LEMONT of Kittery, RICE of South Bristol, SAVAGE of Union, SPEAR of Nobleboro.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A**, as repealed and replaced by  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

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

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

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

30           **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 695,  
32 §7, is repealed.

34           **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§§5 to 7**, as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
36 307, §1, are amended to read:

38           **5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.**  
40 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 ~~at any~~  
42 ~~time, including election day,~~ provided that the applicant  
44 otherwise qualifies as an absentee voter. The receipt of a  
46 completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a  
presumption of qualification under this subsection. The  
registrar must receive an application for registration no later  
than 5 p.m. on the Friday before a Tuesday election or, if that  
Friday is a holiday, no later than 5 p.m. on the next business  
day, in order to enter the applicant's name on the voting lists  
of the municipality for that election.

48           **6. Names to be placed on voting list.** ~~Except as provided in~~  
50 ~~paragraph A, the~~ The registrar shall accept registrations on any  
business day or other day that the clerk's office is open. The

names name of any person registering shall must be placed on the voting list. The registrar must receive an application for registration no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday before a Tuesday election or, if that Friday is a holiday, no later than 5 p.m. on the next business day, in order to enter the applicant's name on the voting lists of the municipality for that election.

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

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

~~(2) In a municipality with a population of more than 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~~

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

**7. Record of names.** The names of voters who register by appearing in person before the registrar ~~during the business days before election day under subsection 6 shall~~ must be recorded as provided in either paragraph A or B, as the municipal officers direct:

A. The registrar shall, after finding an applicant qualified, issue a certificate entitling the voter to be placed on the voting list at the voting place on election day. Only one certificate may be issued to any person; or

B. The registrar shall, after finding ~~the applicant~~ applicants qualified, place the names of those voters on a supplemental voting list. Before the polls are opened, the registrar shall deliver the supplemental list or lists to the clerk or ward clerk at each voting place. The inclusion of a person's name on that list ~~will entitle~~ entitles the applicant to vote on election day. All references in this Title to the use of the voting list before, during and after election day are considered to include the supplemental voting list as provided in this paragraph.

**Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 307, §1, is repealed.

**Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §130,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 694, §1, is further amended to read:

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**§130. Applications for voter registration**

A person who completes an application for registration to vote, as provided in section 152, may mail the application or have the application delivered to the registrar before the closed period for the acceptance of registrations in the person's municipality, to be placed on the voting list prior to the next election; ~~except that applications completed under section 122, subsection 5, may be delivered during the closed period for immediate placement on the voting list.~~

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**Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §152, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

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**2. Placement on voting list.** Upon receipt of the application by the registrar of voters or the board of registration when in open session, the applicant's name shall must be entered on the voting lists of the municipality. The registrar of voters or the board of registration when in open session must receive an application no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday before a Tuesday election or, if that Friday is a holiday, no later than 5 p.m. on the next business day, in order to enter the applicant's name on the voting lists of the municipality for that election.

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**Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §156, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

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

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

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This bill establishes a deadline for registering to vote of 5 p.m. the Friday before a Tuesday election or, if that Friday is a holiday, 5 p.m. the next business day.