

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 251, L.D. 353, Bill, "An Act to Allow Election Officials to Request Identification from Prospective Voters"

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 4, in the 3rd and 4th line (page 1, line 7 and 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "an identification card, as provided under Title 5, section 88-A," and inserting in its place the following: 'other identification acceptable to the election official'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 4 by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

'A person who is required to present identification to vote and does not present identification acceptable to the election official may cast a challenged ballot.'

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

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §673, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1991, c. 466, §19, is further amended to read:

A. Only the following reasons for challenges may be accepted by the warden. The challenged person:

(1) Is not a registered voter;

(2) Is not enrolled in the proper party, if voting in a primary election;

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(3) Is not qualified to be a registered voter because the challenged person is not:

(a) At least 18 years of age;

(b) A citizen of the United States; or

(c) A resident of the municipality or appropriate electoral district within the municipality;

(4) Did not properly apply for an absentee ballot;

(5) Is not a qualified absentee voter as prescribed by section 751;

(6) Did not properly complete the affidavit on the absentee return envelope;

(7) Did not cast the ballot or complete the affidavit before the appropriate witness;

(8) Communicated with someone as prohibited by section 754-A, subsection 1, paragraph B or subsection 3, paragraph B or D;

(9) Did not have the ballot returned to the clerk by the time prescribed;

(10) Voted using the name of another; or

(10-A) Did not provide acceptable identification as prescribed by section 115, subsection 4; or

(11) Committed any other specified violation of this Title.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment gives the election official broader discretion than the bill in determining what is acceptable identification for a voter who is unknown to the election official and permits a person who does not provide the required identification to cast a challenged ballot.