

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. O. S.

L.D. 278

DATE: 4-16-97

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MINORITY
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 214, L.D. 278, Bill, "An Act to Allow Candidates' Presence at Voting Places Solely for the Purpose of Voting"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Regarding Candidates' Presence at Voting Places'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §662, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Placement of candidates. During hours the voting place is open for voting, a warden may designate a specific location at the voting place where a candidate must be positioned for any purpose other than voting, to enable the warden to ensure that the candidate does not violate section 682, subsection 2 or any other election law.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §61, is further amended to read:

2. Influence prohibited. Within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, a person may not influence or attempt to influence another person's decision regarding a candidate or ballot issue. This limitation does not prohibit a candidate from attending the voting place and orally communicating with voters, as long as the candidate does not attempt to influence their vote. A candidate may not state the name of the office sought or request a person's vote. A warden may direct the removal under section 662, subsection 2,

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2 paragraph A, of any candidate who does not comply with the
3 requirements of this subsection or who does not remain in the
4 location designated by the warden pursuant to section 662,
5 subsection 5.'

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SUMMARY

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The amendment replaces the bill. Instead of prohibiting candidates from being present at the voting place for purposes other than voting, it clarifies the warden's powers with regard to candidates at the voting place. It provides that a warden may designate a location for the candidate to be positioned for purposes other than voting and clarifies that the warden has the authority to have a peace officer remove the candidate for failure to comply with the location designation or the prohibition against influencing voters.

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