

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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W.D.S.

L.D. 501

DATE: 5/7/99

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Report C

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 376, L.D. 501, Bill, "An Act to Eliminate Voter Registration on Election Day"

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

'An Act to Allow Municipalities to Decide Whether to Accept Voter Registration on Election Day'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in the last blocked paragraph in the 2nd line (page 1, line 29 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~ex-on-election-day~~" and inserting in its place the following: 'or on election day if the municipality has elected to allow election day voter registrations under Title 30-A, section 2501.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting in their place the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §14, is further amended to read:

4. Election day registration. The registrar shall accept registrations of applicants who appear in person on election day if the municipality has elected to allow election day voter registration under Title 30-A, section 2501. The registrar shall issue to each of these applicants a certificate entitling the applicant to be placed on the voting list at the voting place. Only one certificate may be issued to a person. An applicant whose address has changed since the applicant last voted must vote

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1148

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 376, L.D. 501

2 using the ballot or ballots for the new polling place, if applicable, on election day.'

4 Further amend the bill in section 4 by striking out all of subsection 5 and inserting in its place the following:

6
8 **'5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.**
10 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 at any time, including election day if the municipality has elected to allow election day voter registrations under Title 30-A, section 2501, provided that if the applicant otherwise qualifies as an
12 absentee voter. The receipt of a completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a presumption of
14 qualification under this subsection.'

16 Further amend the bill in section 5 by striking out all of subsection 1 and inserting in its place the following:

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20 **'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
22 of a township not easily accessible to a town within his the resident's representative district, he the resident may register
24 and enroll in a more convenient town within or outside the county. He The resident may register and enroll on election day
26 if the municipality has elected to allow election day voter registrations under Title 30-A, section 2501. The registrar
28 shall place the letter "T" beside the voter's resident's name on the voting list and on the general register.'

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32 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

34 **'Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §2501, sub-§3 is enacted to read:**

36 **3. Municipal option.** A municipality may choose to accept
38 voter registrations on election day if the issue is voted affirmatively by the residents of the municipality at a statewide election and the results are filed with the Secretary of State within 10 days of the election. If no election is held or the election results are negative, the municipality may not accept voter registrations on election day.

44 **Sec. 7. Effective date.** This Act takes effect on January 1, 2000.'

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48 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
50 consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. d. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 376, L.D. 501

2

SUMMARY

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This amendment, which is a minority report, replaces the original bill and gives municipalities the option to decide whether they will accept voter registrations on election day. The effective date of the bill is delayed to allow municipalities a statewide election before the option takes effect.

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