

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 501

H.P. 376

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

An Act to Eliminate Voter Registration on Election Day.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ANDREWS of York.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOWLES of Sanford, COLLINS of Wells, DUNCAN of
Presque Isle, LEMONT of Kittery, LINDAHL of Northport, STANWOOD of Southwest
Harbor.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 436, §22, is further 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 before ~~ex--en~~
18 election day.

20 Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from
22 outside agencies 21 days or more before an election must be
24 transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 10 days
26 of receipt. Registration applications received by the Secretary
28 of State from outside agencies 20 days or less before an election
30 must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within
32 5 days of receipt. Registration applications by mail or by a 3rd
34 person must be received in the registrar's office by the close of
36 business 10 business days before election day in order for
38 persons to appear on the list of registered voters for that
40 election. If the registrar's office is not open on that day, the
42 registrar must accept applications by mail that are received on
44 the next day the registrar's office is open.

46 A person who registers during the 10 business days before
48 election day ~~ex--en--election--day~~ shall register in person and show
proof of identity and residency. If satisfactory proof of
identity and residency can not be provided to the registrar or
deputy, the person's name is placed on the voting list and the
person casts a challenged ballot.

34 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459,
36 §14, is repealed.

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

40 ~~**4-A. Election day registration.** The registrar may not
42 accept registrations of applicants on election day.~~

44 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 307,
§1, is amended to read:

46 **5. Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.**
48 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 at any
time, ~~including--election--day,--provided--that~~ **if** the applicant
otherwise qualifies as an absentee voter. The receipt of a

2 completed absentee ballot application by the clerk establishes a
presumption of qualification under this subsection.

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

6
8 **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
10 of a township not easily accessible to a town within ~~his~~ the
resident's representative district, he ~~the resident~~ may register
12 and enroll in a more convenient town within or outside the
county. ~~He--may--register--and--enroll--on--election--day.~~ The
14 registrar may accept the resident's enrollment on election day
but may not accept the resident's registration on election day.
16 The registrar shall place the letter "T" beside the ~~voter's~~
resident's name on the voting list and on the general register.
18

20 SUMMARY

22 This bill eliminates voter registration on election day.