

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1249

H.P. 935

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

An Act Regarding Registration of Voters on Election Day.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative LESSARD of Topsham. (By Request)
Cosponsored by Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 426, §6, 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 or on
18 election day.

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

28 A person who registers during the 9 business days before election
30 day or on election day shall register in person and show proof of
32 identity and residency. For a person who registers on election
34 day, whether that person has shown satisfactory proof of identity
36 and residency is in the sole discretion of the registrar. 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.

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

40 **4. Election day registration.** The registrar shall accept
42 registrations of applicants who appear in person on election day
44 and show proof of identity and residency. Whether an applicant
46 has shown satisfactory proof of identity and residency is in the
48 sole discretion of the registrar. The registrar shall issue to
~~each of these applicants~~ applicant who shows satisfactory proof
of identity and residency 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

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

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SUMMARY

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8 This bill provides a registrar of voters of a municipality
the sole discretion to determine whether a person who seeks to
register to vote on election day has shown satisfactory proof of
10 identity and residency.