

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1250

H.P. 936

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Registration of Voters.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOOLEY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin and
Representatives: ANDREWS of York, COLLINS of Wells, COTE of Lewiston, CRESSEY of
Baldwin, HEIDRICH of Oxford, LABRECQUE of Gorham, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis,
KNEELAND of Aroostook.

2
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A,** as amended by PL 1999, c.
5 426, §6, is further amended to read:

6 **1-A. Identification and proof.** Registration applications
7 taken by outside agencies must be transferred to the Secretary of
8 State within 5 days of receipt. An applicant who attempts to
9 register within ~~20~~ 50 days of an election must be advised that
10 the registrar might not receive the application before ~~that~~
11 ~~election~~ the deadline for the receipt of applications, but that
12 the applicant may register in person ~~before or on~~ no later than
13 30 days before election day.

14
15 Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from
16 outside agencies ~~21~~ 51 days or more before an election must be
17 transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 10 days
18 of receipt. Registration applications received by the Secretary
19 of State from outside agencies ~~20~~ 50 days or less before an
20 election must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's
21 office within 5 days of receipt. Registration applications by
22 mail or by a 3rd person must be received in the registrar's
23 office by the close of business on the ~~10th~~ 40th business day
24 before election day in order for persons to appear on the list of
25 registered voters for that election. If the registrar's office
26 is not open on that day, the registrar must accept applications
27 by mail that are received on the next day the registrar's office
28 is open.

29 ~~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~~
31 ~~identity and residency. If satisfactory proof of identity and~~
32 ~~residency can not be provided to the registrar or deputy, the~~
33 ~~person's name is placed on the voting list and the person casts a~~
34 ~~challenged ballot.~~

35 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,
36 §6, is amended to read:

37
38 A person may register as a voter by appearing before the
39 registrar no later than 30 days before an election, proving that
40 he the person is qualified under section 111, subsections 1 to 3,
41 and filing an application provided by the registrar containing
42 the information required by section 171. Township residents may
43 register as provided in section 156.

44
45 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 459,
46 §114, is repealed.

47
48 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 307,
49 §1, is amended to read:

5. **Alternative registration schedule for absentee voters.**

2 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 at any
3 time, ~~including election day if those registrations are received~~
4 by the registrar no later than 30 days before an election,
5 provided that the applicant otherwise qualifies as an absentee
6 voter. The receipt of a completed absentee ballot application by
7 the clerk establishes a presumption of qualification under this
8 subsection.

10 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§§6 and 7**, as amended by PL 1997,
11 c. 436, §23, are repealed.

12 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§8**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 307,
13 §1, is repealed.

14 **Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §125**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 436, §24,
15 is repealed.

16 **Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §130, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 694,
17 §1, is further amended to read:

18
19 A person who completes an application for registration to
20 vote, as provided in section 152, may mail the application or
21 have the application delivered to the registrar before the closed
22 period for the acceptance of registrations in the person's
23 municipality, to be placed on the voting list prior to the next
24 election; ~~except that applications completed under section 122,~~
25 ~~subsection 5, may be delivered during the closed period for~~
26 ~~immediate placement on the voting list.~~

27
28 **Sec. 9. 21-A MRSA §152, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 436,
29 §35, is further amended to read:

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31 **2. Placement on voting list.** Upon receipt of the
32 application by the registrar of voters no later than 30 days
33 before an election, the applicant's name must be entered on the
34 voting lists of the municipality as soon as the voter has
35 qualified.

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41 **SUMMARY**

42
43 This bill requires that a person register to vote not later
44 than 30 days before an election.