

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1460

H.P. 1091

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

An Act to Establish a Deadline for New Voter Registrations.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative CLOUGH of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin and
Representatives: DAVIS of Falmouth, HEIDRICH of Oxford, LABRECQUE of Gorham,
LOVETT of Scarborough, MUSE of Fryeburg, SCHNEIDER of Durham, WATERHOUSE of
Bridgton.

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 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~~
the deadline for the receipt of applications, but that the
16 applicant may register in person ~~before or on~~ no later than 10
18 days before 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
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.

~~A person who registers during the 9 business days before election
day or on 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.~~

36 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §122, first ¶.** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,
38 §6, is amended to read:

40 A person may register as a voter by appearing before the
42 registrar no later than 10 days before an election, proving that
44 he the person is qualified under section 111, subsections 1 to 3,
and filing an application provided by the registrar containing
the information required by section 171. Township residents may
register as provided in section 156.

46 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §122, sub-§4.** as amended by PL 1995, c. 459,
48 §114, is repealed.

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

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

6 The registrar shall accept registrations under section 152 ~~at any~~
~~time, including election day~~ if those registrations are received
8 by the registrar no later than 10 days before an election,
provided that the applicant otherwise qualifies as an absentee
10 voter. The receipt of a completed absentee ballot application by
the clerk establishes a presumption of qualification under this
subsection.

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14 c. 436, §23, are repealed.

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§1, is repealed.

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

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

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

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

36 **2. Placement on voting list.** Upon receipt of the
38 application by the registrar of voters no later than 10 days
before an election, the applicant's name must be entered on the
40 voting lists of the municipality as soon as the voter has
qualified.

42
44 **SUMMARY**

46 This bill requires that a person register to vote not later
than 10 days before an election.