MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1686

H.P. 1243

House of Representatives, March 20, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLWELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator ABROMSON of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, COWGER of Hallowell, DUNLAP of Old Town,
MAILHOT of Lewiston, PATRICK of Rumford, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senator: RAND of
Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §161, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Copies of list to be furnished to Secretary of State. The registrar shall send a copy of the voting list to the Secretary of State upon request of the Secretary of State pursuant to section 168.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §168 is enacted to read:

§168. Central voting list for State

The Secretary of State shall maintain a central comprehensive voting list for the State that includes the names and addresses of all residents registered to vote. The Secretary of State shall update the list at least once a year by requesting the voting list from the registrar of every municipality in the State.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §505, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 459, §34, is amended to read:

7. Return of votes cast. Report the return of votes cast to the Secretary of State; and

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §505, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Training. Attend a training session that is approved by the Secretary of State at least once every 2 years in regard to the conduct of elections. The clerk or the clerk's designee shall attend the training session; and

Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §626, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 436, §88, is further amended to read:

1. Opening time flexible. The polls must be opened ~~no earlier than 6 a.m. and~~ no later than ~~9~~ 7 a.m. on election day; except that in municipalities with a population of less than ~~4,000~~ 100, the polls must be opened no later than 10:00 a.m. on election day. The municipal officers of each municipality shall determine the time of opening the polls within these limits.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Secretary of State to maintain a central voting list for the State and to update the list at least once a year by requesting the voting list from the registrar of every municipality in the State. This bill also requires a

registrar to furnish the voting list for the registrar's
municipality to the Secretary of State upon request from the
Secretary of State.

This bill requires each municipal clerk or the clerk's
designee to attend a training session that is approved by the
Secretary of State at least once every 2 years in regard to the
conduct of elections.

This bill requires polls to be opened no later than 7 a.m.
on election days, except that in a municipality with a population
of less than 100, the polls must be opened no later than 10 a.m.