

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1300

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H.P. 954

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

### **An Act Regarding the Presence of a Candidate at a Polling Place on Election Day**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUTTON of Bowdoinham.  
Cosponsored by Representative RICHARDSON of Skowhegan.

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

2

**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 310,  
4 §37, is further amended to read:

6 **2. Influence prohibited.** Within 250 feet of the entrance  
to the voting place as well as within the voting place itself, a  
8 person may not influence or attempt to influence another person's  
decision regarding a candidate or ballot issue. This limitation  
10 does not prohibit a candidate from attending the voting place and  
~~orally communicating with voters, as long as the candidate does~~  
12 ~~not attempt to influence their vote. A candidate may not state~~  
the name of the office sought or request a person's vote for the  
14 purpose of voting. A candidate or a candidate's surrogate may  
not loiter before or after voting within 250 feet of or at the  
16 polling place.

18 A. This subsection does not apply to pollwatchers who may  
remain in the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure  
20 as long as they do not attempt to influence voters or  
interfere with their free passage.

22

B. This subsection does not prohibit media representatives  
24 from conducting an exit poll, as long as they do not solicit  
voters until after they have voted and do not orally  
26 communicate with voters in a way that influences any  
person's vote.

28

C. If any person attempts to influence voters or interfere  
30 with their free passage, the warden shall have that person  
removed from the voting place.

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34 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill limits a candidate's activities at a polling place  
to voting.