

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1216, L.D. 1639, Bill, "An Act To Make Polling Places More Convenient"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, municipalities may hold referenda and elections at any time during the year and, notably, the Town of Harpswell will hold a major referendum on March 9, 2004; and

Whereas, Maine is a national leader in encouraging voter participation, which can be enhanced by making access to the polls easier; and

Whereas, the cost of managing voting in a polling place affording only difficult access and requiring crowd control may be greater than the cost of the use of multiple polling places; and

Whereas, cold winter weather imposes a hardship on voters required to wait outdoors to vote for lengthy periods because of limited access to a voting place; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
4 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,'

6 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 and
before the summary the following:

8
10 'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

12

SUMMARY

14

16 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause to the
bill.