

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 945

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S.P. 320

In Senate, February 22, 2005

### **An Act To Allow the Counting of Absentee Ballots prior to Election Day**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MAYO of Sagadahoc.  
Cosponsored by Senators: GAGNON of Kennebec, PLOWMAN of Penobscot,  
Representatives: PATRICK of Rumford, PINKHAM of Lexington Township.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §759, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 436,  
§113, is further amended to read:

6 **7. Processing before close of polls.** Absentee ballots may  
8 be processed up to 2 business days prior to election day. A  
10 notice signed by the municipal clerk must be posted at least 7  
12 days before election day in the same manner as posting the notice  
14 of election, under section 621-A, stating each specific time that  
16 the clerk intends to begin processing absentee ballots on or  
18 before election day. The warden shall follow the procedures  
required by subsections 1 to 6 to process absentee ballots before  
the close of the polls. The clerk shall notify the chairs of  
each political party of the municipality, in writing, that this  
procedure is to occur. This notice must be considered sufficient  
as long as it is mailed to the last address of each municipal  
chair that is known to the clerk.

20 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill permits a municipality to process ballots up to 2  
24 business days prior to election day.