

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 663

H.P. 512

House of Representatives, February 8, 2007

An Act To Update Absentee Ballot Procedures

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** domestic partners are not included in the definition of immediate family
4 members for the purposes of requesting an absentee ballot; and

5 **Whereas,** many citizens of the State have taken advantage of the domestic partner
6 laws; and

7 **Whereas,** these domestic partners are unable to request absentee ballots for their
8 partners under the current law; and

9 **Whereas,** the next election will take place before the general effective date of
10 legislation passed by the 123rd Legislature; and

11 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
14 therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§20,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 310, §1, is further
17 amended to read:

18 **20. Immediate family.** "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, parent,
19 grandparent, child, grandchild, sister, brother, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild,
20 stepgrandchild, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law,
21 sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, guardian or, former guardian or domestic
22 partner as defined in Title 22, section 2710, subsection 2.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
24 legislation takes effect when approved.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 Current law provides that an immediate family member may request an absentee
27 ballot for a person. This bill amends the definition of "immediate family member" under
28 the election laws to include domestic partners.