

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2130

H.P. 1509

House of Representatives, January 7, 2008

**An Act To Implement the Recommendation of the Legislative Youth
Advisory Council To Allow Youth To Preregister To Vote upon
Reaching 16 Years of Age**

Reported by Representative FARRINGTON of Gorham for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 168-A.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §111-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§111-B. Preregistration**

4 A person who has reached 16 years of age and who meets all applicable citizenship
5 and residency requirements of this subchapter may preregister to vote by completing a
6 form designed by the Secretary of State and submitting that form to the Secretary of
7 State. A person who has preregistered to vote under this section is automatically
8 registered to vote when that person reaches 18 years of age or when that person meets the
9 voting age qualification for voting in a primary election under section 111-A, whichever
10 occurs first.

11 **Sec. 2. Rulemaking, form availability and public education.** The Secretary
12 of State shall adopt rules as necessary as soon as practicable to implement the Maine
13 Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 111-B. Preregistration forms designed by the
14 Secretary of State pursuant to section 111-B must be publicly available during regular
15 business hours at all offices of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and must be supplied by the
16 Secretary of State to all municipal registrars. The Secretary of State shall undertake such
17 public education efforts as are necessary to ensure that youth are aware of the voter
18 preregistration option and understand the preregistration process. Rules adopted under
19 this section are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill allows an otherwise eligible person to preregister to vote upon reaching 16
22 years of age. Once preregistered, that person is automatically registered to vote when that
23 person reaches 18 years of age or when that person meets the voting age qualification for
24 voting in a primary election under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 111-A,
25 whichever occurs first. The bill directs the Secretary of State to adopt such routine
26 technical rules as are necessary to implement this process. The bill requires that
27 preregistration forms be publicly available at all offices of the Department of the
28 Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and be provided to all municipal registrars.
29 The Secretary of State is also directed to undertake efforts to ensure that youth are aware
30 of the preregistration option.