

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 53

H.P. 48

House of Representatives, January 17, 2013

An Act To Increase Voting Access

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BECK of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator PATRICK of Oxford and
Representatives: LIBBY of Lewiston, POWERS of Naples, RUSSELL of Portland, Senator:
LACHOWICZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§8,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 399, §24, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **8. Absentee voting in presence of clerk.** A person who wishes to vote by absentee
5 ballot may, without completing an application, vote by absentee ballot in the presence of
6 the clerk, ~~except as provided in~~ until the close of business on the day before election day,
7 notwithstanding subsection 2, paragraph D. The method of voting is otherwise as
8 prescribed in this article. After the person has voted, the clerk shall sign the affidavit on
9 the return envelope as a witness, indicate on the envelope that the voter voted in the
10 presence of a clerk and ensure that the affidavit on the return envelope is properly
11 completed by the voter. For the 45 days preceding an election, during the hours when the
12 clerk's office is open and may be conducting absentee voting, the display or distribution
13 of any advertising material intended to influence a voter's decision regarding a candidate
14 or question on the ballot for that election is prohibited within the clerk's office and on
15 public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the building in which the clerk's office
16 is located.

17 This subsection does not apply to the display or distribution of any campaign advertising
18 material on private property that is within 250 feet of the entrance to the building in
19 which the clerk's office is located. For purposes of this section, "private property"
20 includes privately owned property subject to a public right-of-way that is an easement
21 right-of-way.

22 This subsection does not apply to campaign advertising material on automobiles traveling
23 to and from the municipal office or parked on municipal property while the occupants are
24 visiting the municipal office to conduct municipal business. It does not prohibit a person
25 who is at the municipal office for the purpose of conducting municipal business or for
26 absentee voting from wearing a campaign button when the longest dimension of the
27 button does not exceed 3 inches.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill provides that a person may vote by absentee ballot in the presence of a
30 municipal clerk until the close of business on the day before election day. Current law
31 requires such voting to be completed no later than 3 business days before election day.