

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1570

H.P. 1132

House of Representatives, April 16, 2019

An Act To Allow Residents To Register Online To Vote

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COREY of Windham, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick,
RYKERSON of Kittery, TIPPING of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121-A**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 534, §5, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§121-A. Deadline for registration**

5 The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications submitted by mail or by a
6 3rd person is the close of business on the 21st day before election day. The deadline for
7 receipt of voter registration applications submitted online is the 7th day before election
8 day. The deadline for in-person registration is the close of the polls on election day.

9 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §131** is enacted to read:

10 **§131. Online registration**

11 **1. Online registration.** A person who is qualified under section 111, subsections 1
12 to 3 to vote under this article and who possesses a valid driver's license or nondriver
13 identification card issued by the Secretary of State may submit a voter registration
14 application under section 152, subsection 1 on the Secretary of State's publicly accessible
15 website.

16 **2. Application.** A voter registration application submitted under this section must
17 contain:

18 A. The legal name of the voter, in one of the following combinations:

19 (1) First name and last name;

20 (2) First initial, middle name and last name; or

21 (3) First name, middle name or middle initial and last name;

22 B. Residence address, including street, street number, apartment number, town and
23 zip code;

24 C. Date of birth;

25 D. Most recent prior residence where registered to vote, including the municipality,
26 county and state, and the name under which previously registered, if changed;

27 E. Notification that failure to complete the entire application may prevent
28 registration;

29 F. Choice of political party if the applicant desires to enroll in a political party or an
30 indication that the applicant chose not to enroll in a party;

31 G. The unique identifying number on the applicant's driver's license or nondriver
32 identification card issued by the Secretary of State;

33 H. An affirmation by the applicant that the information provided in the application is
34 truthful and that the applicant is qualified to register in the State;

1 I. A place for the applicant to respond to the questions concerning the voter's
2 qualifications as required by the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law
3 107-252; and

4 J. Any other information the Secretary of State determines necessary to establish the
5 identity of the applicant or to carry out the purposes of this article.

6 **3. Procedure.** An applicant may register to vote under this section no later than the
7 7th day before election day as set forth in section 121-A. Upon receipt of an application
8 under subsection 2, the Secretary of State shall verify that:

9 A. The applicant has a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued
10 by the Secretary of State and that the unique identifying number for the card provided
11 by the applicant matches the unique identifying number for the card in the Secretary
12 of State's records;

13 B. The date of birth provided by the applicant matches the date of birth of the
14 applicant in the Secretary of State's records; and

15 C. The applicant is a citizen of the State and that the information provided by the
16 applicant matches the information in the Secretary of State's records.

17 After verifying the information under this subsection, the Secretary of State shall notify
18 the registrar of the voting district in which the applicant resides, revise the central voter
19 registration system and send confirmation of registration to the applicant either
20 electronically or by mail. If the Secretary of State is unable to verify any information
21 required by this section, the Secretary of State shall reject the application as void and
22 send notification of and reason for the rejection to the applicant either electronically or by
23 mail within 5 days of the rejection.

24 **4. Alternative registration procedure for participants in Address**
25 **Confidentiality Program.** The Secretary of State may establish different criteria under
26 subsection 2, paragraphs A, B and D for an applicant who is certified by the Secretary of
27 State as a program participant in the Address Confidentiality Program in Title 5, section
28 90-B.

29 **5. Registration software.** The Secretary of State shall procure and use computer
30 software to administer the procedures in subsection 3 to provide immediate verification to
31 the extent possible.

32 **6. Rules.** The Secretary of State may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this
33 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined
34 by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill allows online application for voter registration by an eligible resident of the
37 State through the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website.