

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1083

H.P. 798

House of Representatives, March 11, 2021

An Act To Create a Voter Identification System

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 FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CONNOR of Lewiston, FECTEAU of Augusta, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §671, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §20, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Name announced.** A voter who wishes to vote must present proof of identity in
5 the form of a photograph identification document and state the voter's name and residence
6 address to an election clerk, who shall announce the name in a loud, clear voice. If the
7 voter's stated residence address is different from the residence address listed on the
8 incoming voting list, the voter must be directed to complete an updated voter registration
9 application before voting. For purposes of this subsection, "photograph identification
10 document" means a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued
11 in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a
12 concealed handgun issued under Title 25, chapter 252 if that permit includes a photograph.
13 "Photograph identification document" does not include an identification issued by a college
14 or university in this State.

15 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §671, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

16 **9. Special voter photograph identification card.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a
17 voter who wishes to vote and who does not possess a photograph identification document
18 may request from the Secretary of State a special voter photograph identification card,
19 which must be issued free of charge and is valid for voter identification under this section.
20 The Secretary of State shall establish procedures through rulemaking for the issuance of
21 special voter photograph identification cards under this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant
22 to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

23 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph
26 identification document when voting in person. Acceptable photograph identification is a
27 current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a
28 United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun
29 issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a
30 college or university in this State may not be accepted for voter identification. The bill also
31 allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification document to request a
32 free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary of State.