

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

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Legislative Document

No. 1821

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H.P. 1354

House of Representatives, December 17, 2021

### **An Act To Make Interfering with an Election Official a Class C Crime**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 15, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITE of Waterville.  
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and  
Representatives: CAIAZZO of Scarborough, DUNPHY of Old Town, MADIGAN of  
Waterville, MORALES of South Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, RECKITT of South  
Portland, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, LUCHINI of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §751, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 351, §2, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **2.** This section does not apply to:

5 A. Refusal by a person to submit to an arrest or detention; or

6 B. Escape by a person from official custody, as defined in section 755; or

7 C. Intentional interference by a person under Title 21-A, section 674, subsection 3,  
8 paragraph E.

9 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §674, sub-§3, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 447, §20, is  
10 further amended to read:

11 C. Votes by using the name of another; or

12 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §674, sub-§3, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 447, §21, is  
13 amended to read:

14 D. Attempts to vote by using the name of another; or

15 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §674, sub-§3, ¶E** is enacted to read:

16 E. Intentionally interferes by force, violence or intimidation or by any physical act  
17 with any public official who is in fact performing or the person believes is performing  
18 an official function relating to a federal, state or municipal election.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill provides that a person commits a Class C crime if that person intentionally  
21 interferes by force, violence or intimidation or by any physical act with a public official  
22 who is in fact performing or the person believes is performing an official function relating  
23 to a federal, state or municipal election. Current law provides that a person is guilty of  
24 obstructing government administration, which is a Class D crime, if the person  
25 intentionally interferes by force, violence or intimidation or by any physical act with a  
26 public servant performing or purporting to perform an official function.