

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 26

S.P. 18

In Senate, December 30, 2022

**An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who
Send Absentee Ballots by Mail**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and
Senators: BAILEY of York, BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of
York, PIERCE of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: POIRIER of
Skowhegan, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §752, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 357, §8, is further
3 amended to read:

4 At least 3 months before any election, the Secretary of State shall furnish each
5 municipality with a reasonable number of dated absentee ballot applications. A reasonable
6 time, not less than 30 days unless an emergency exists, before any election, the Secretary
7 of State shall furnish each municipality with a reasonable number of absentee ballots and
8 return envelopes, postage prepaid for return when the ballot is mailed from within the
9 United States.

10 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §752, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU, §2
11 and affected by §7, is further amended to read:

12 **3. Form of return envelope.** The Secretary of State shall design or approve the form
13 of the absentee ballot return envelope, postage prepaid for return when the ballot is mailed
14 from within the United States. The Secretary of State may not design or approve a return
15 envelope for use in a general election that includes any mark visible on the outside of the
16 return envelope or a space designated for making a mark visible on the outside of the return
17 envelope that indicates the political party of the voter to whom the absentee ballot is issued.

18 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect March 1, 2024.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill provides for postage prepaid return envelopes for voters in the United States
21 sending absentee ballots by mail.