

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1500

H.P. 955

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

**An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elections by Requiring Video
Monitoring of Drop Boxes and Amending the Laws Regarding
Voter Rolls and Absentee Voting Envelopes**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BOYER of Poland.
Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and
Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, CRAY of Palmyra, DRINKWATER of Milford, LIBBY
of Auburn, QUINT of Hodgdon, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred, SMITH of
Palermo.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §161, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 131, §9, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2-A. Maintenance of voter registration information.** The registrar in each
5 municipality shall keep the central voter registration system current at all times for the
6 voters in the registrar's municipality. The Secretary of State is authorized to conduct
7 maintenance of the central voter registration system. The Secretary of State shall adopt
8 rules for conducting voter list maintenance required by the National Voter Registration Act
9 of 1993. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in
10 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A registrar may not cancel a voter's registration in
11 the central voter registration system solely because the registered voter did not vote in
12 previous elections. A voter's registration record in the central voter registration system
13 must be cancelled by either the registrar for the voter's municipality or by the Secretary of
14 State as follows:

15 A. When it is determined that a voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction in
16 the State, the voter registration record from the former jurisdiction must be cancelled;
17 ~~and~~

18 B. When it is determined that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction
19 outside of the State, the voter registration record in the State must be cancelled;

20 C. When it is determined that the voter has moved into another jurisdiction, either in
21 the State or outside of the State, regardless of whether the voter has registered to vote
22 in that other jurisdiction, the voter registration record from the former jurisdiction must
23 be cancelled; and

24 D. When it is determined that the voter is deceased, the voter registration record must
25 be cancelled.

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

28 **3. Form of return envelope.** The Secretary of State shall design or approve the form
29 of the absentee ballot return envelope. The Secretary of State may not design or approve a
30 return envelope for use in a ~~general~~ any election that includes any mark visible on the
31 outside of the return envelope or a space designated for making a mark visible on the
32 outside of the return envelope that indicates the political party of the voter to whom the
33 absentee ballot is issued.

34 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §752-B, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 273, §12, is
35 amended to read:

36 **5. Monitoring of secured drop box.** During the absentee voting period, each secured
37 drop box must be monitored periodically by law enforcement personnel; ~~or~~ or municipal staff
38 ~~or~~ and recorded continuously by a surveillance camera. The recorded video must be
39 retained by the municipality for one year following the end of the absentee voting period.

40 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised
41 Statutes, Title 21-A, section 752, subsection 3 takes effect November 1, 2023.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing voting and voter
3 registration.

4 1. It requires a registrar of a municipality, when conducting maintenance of voter
5 registration information, to cancel the voter registration record of a voter determined to
6 have moved outside of that municipality.

7 2. It requires a registrar of a municipality, when conducting maintenance of voter
8 registration information, to cancel the voter registration record of a voter determined to be
9 deceased.

10 3. It prohibits an absentee ballot return envelope for use in any election from including
11 any mark visible on the outside of the return envelope or a space designated for making a
12 mark visible on the outside of the return envelope that indicates the political party of the
13 voter to whom the absentee ballot is issued.

14 4. It requires secured drop boxes for the return of absentee ballots to be monitored
15 periodically and recorded continuously by a surveillance camera during the absentee voting
16 period and requires the recorded video to be retained by the municipality for one year
17 following the end of the absentee voting period.