

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE NO. 218

House of Representatives, Feb. 9, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Brewster of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT to amend Section 19 of Chapter 5 of the Revised
Statutes of 1916 relating to the registration of voters.

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

Section 19 of Chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes of 1916
2 is hereby amended by adding after the first sentence thereof,
3 and in cities of not less than 35,000 inhabitants said board
4 shall be in session the sixty secular days prior to any State
5 or Municipal election; on the first twenty of said days said
6 boards shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon
7 to one o'clock in the afternoon, and from three o'clock to

8 five o'clock in the afternoon, and on the next ten secular
9 days the said boards shall be in session from nine o'clock in
10 the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon and from three
11 o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon, and from seven to
12 nine o'clock in the afternoon, to receive evidence and to de-
13 termine the qualifications and rights of registration of voters
14 therein, and to revise and correct the voting lists; and on the
15 latter thirty of said sixty secular days said boards shall be
16 in session to enable said boards to verify the correctness of
17 the voting lists and to close up the records of said boards,
18 and to hear and determine the right of any person, whose
19 right has been challenged, to have his name added to or
20 remain on said list or be stricken from the same. In cities
21 of not less than 35,000 inhabitants registration prior to any
22 Presidential election shall be held during the days and hours
23 fixed by this section for the registration of voters for the
24 Municipal election next following,' so that said section when
25 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 19. Said boards of registration shall be in session
2 from nine in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon,
3 and from three to five o'clock in the afternoon and from
4 seven to nine o'clock in the afternoon, in cities of not less
5 than nineteen thousand inhabitants, on each of the twelve
6 secular days next prior to any election; on the first nine
7 of said secular days, to receive evidence touching the quali-
8 fications of voters therein, and to revise and correct the
9 voting lists, and on the latter three of said secular days, to

10 enable the board to verify the correctness of said lists and
11 to complete and close up its records of said sessions, and
12 in cities of not less than 35,000 inhabitants said board shall
13 be in session the sixty secular days prior to any State or
14 Municipal election; on the first twenty of said days said
15 boards shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon
16 to one o'clock in the afternoon, and from three o'clock to
17 five o'clock in the afternoon, and on the next ten secular
18 days the said boards shall be in session from nine o'clock
19 in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon and from
20 three o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon, and from seven
21 to nine o'clock in the afternoon, to receive evidence and to
22 determine the qualifications and rights of registration of
23 voters therein, and to revise and correct the voting lists; and
24 on the latter thirty of said sixty secular days said boards
25 shall be in session to enable said board to verify the cor-
26 rectness of the voting lists and to close up the records of
27 said boards, and to hear and determine the right of any
28 person, whose right has been challenged, to have his name
29 added to or remain on said list or be stricken from the
30 same. In cities of not less than 35,000 inhabitants registra-
31 tion prior to any Presidential election shall be held during
32 the days and hours fixed by this section for the registration
33 of voters for the municipal election next following. And
34 in all other cities, for the same purpose, and at the same
35 hours on each of the five secular days next prior to any
36 election, the first four thereof to be devoted to registration

37 as above, and the last one of said secular days to enable
38 the board to verify the correctness of said lists and to
39 complete and close up its records of said sessions. And on
40 the last of said secular days, at five o'clock in the afternoon,
41 certified copies of said voting lists shall be delivered to
42 the clerks of said cities and receipts taken therefor, except
43 that on the last of said days devoted to registration and
44 on the last of said days devoted to the records as above,
45 the sessions of the board shall close at five o'clock in the
46 afternoon, but no name shall be added to or stricken from
47 said lists after five o'clock in the afternoon of the last of
48 said days devoted to registration as above. Said board shall
49 not place upon said lists during said revision of the same,
50 the name of any person who shall not personally appear
51 before said board and request it, and during said time said
52 board shall revise and correct the voting lists. Nothing in
53 this chapter shall be so construed as to require any voter,
54 whose name is already upon any ward list and who after-
55 wards moves from said ward to any other ward in said
56 city, to appear personally before said board during the re-
57 vision of the list in order to transfer his name from one
58 ward list to another. The wardens of cities shall be gov-
59 erned by said revised and corrected lists; and no names
60 shall be added to or stricken from said lists on the day of
61 election, and no person shall vote at any election whose
62 name is not on said lists. No board of registration shall
63 be answerable for any omission of a name or residence from

64 the voting lists or for any error in the same, unless such
65 name and residence are correctly entered in the general
66 register of voters; but on the day of election said board
67 shall be in session, and shall give to any registered voter
68 whose name has been omitted from the voting list, or in
69 whose name or residence as placed on said voting list a
70 clerical error has been made, a certificate signed by a
71 majority of the board, giving the corrected name and resi-
72 dence of such person, and directed to the officer presiding
73 over the election; such officer shall on receipt of such cer-
74 tificate allow the person therein named to vote and shall
75 check his name on the certificate, and securely attach the
76 certificate to the voting list.'