

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 562

H. P. 1544 House of Representatives, March 1, 1929.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Picher of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Absent Voting Law.

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

Section 1. *R. S. c. 7, section 134; c. 38, public laws 1921; 2 relating to elections, amended.* Section one hundred and 3 thirty-four of chapter seven of the revised statutes, as sup- 4 plemented by chapter thirty-eight of public laws of nine- 5 teen hundred and twenty-one, is hereby further amended 6 and supplemented by inserting the following paragraph aft- 7 er clause "e" of said section:

'In the case of city elections, the city clerk shall notify in 2 writing each municipal officer of his city as to the exact 3 number of official absent voting ballots which he has pre- 4 pared for each voting precinct or ward of his said city, three

5 (3) days at least, Sundays included, before said city elec-
6 tion; and a copy of such notice shall be filed by the city
7 clerk in the office of the city clerk in a book kept for that
8 purpose, two (2) days at least, Sundays included, before
9 said election.'

Sect. 2. *R. S. c. 7, section 137; c. 38, public laws 1921; 2 relating to certification of application for absent voting bal- 3 lots, amended.* Section one hundred and thirty-seven of 4 chapter seven of the revised statutes as supplemented by 5 chapter thirty-eight of the public laws of nineteen hundred 6 and twenty-one is amended by inserting after the sentence 7 ending with the word "clerk" in the seventh line of said 8 section the following: 'Said officials shall keep a record 9 in a book provided for that purpose of all voters whose 10 applications for official voting ballots are certified to the 11 city or town clerk together with the date of the execution 12 of the certificate on the application,' so that the section, as 13 amended, shall read as follows:

'Sect. 137. *When application is received, clerk shall sub- 2 mit it to officials charged with registration of voters; said 3 officials shall certify to genuineness of applicant and keep 4 record thereof; if not certified as genuine, applicant to be 5 notified; applications to be preserved and note to be made 6 on check list.* When an application for an official absent 7 voting ballot is received by the clerk of a city or town, he 8 shall forthwith transmit same to the officials charged by 9 law with the registration and enrolment of voters in said

10 city or town. Said officials shall examine same; and, if
11 they believe the signature thereon to be genuine and the
12 statements therein made by the applicant to be true, they
13 shall execute the certificate thereon and return same to said
14 clerk. Said officials shall keep a record in a book provided
15 for that purpose of all voters whose applications for official
16 voting ballots are certified to the city or town clerk together
17 with the date of the execution of the certificate on the appli-
18 cation. The city clerk shall cause to be placed on the voting
19 list, opposite the name of each person to whom an official
20 absent voting ballot is mailed or delivered, and prior to the
21 opening of the polls on election day, the letters in capitals
22 A. V. If said officials do not believe said signature to be
23 genuine or said statements made by the applicant to be
24 true, or decline to execute the said certificate, they shall
25 forthwith mail to the purported applicant at his last address
26 as stated on said application written notice to that effect,
27 giving their reasons for so declining. They shall preserve
28 the application until the time set by law for the destruction
29 of ballots cast in the coming election, at which time said
30 application shall also be destroyed. The clerk shall keep
31 lists of the names and addresses, arranged by voting pre-
32 cincts, of all voters filing applications for absent voting bal-
33 lots, and shall post copies of said lists for public inspection
34 at each polling place.'

Sect. 3. *R. S. c. 7, section 140; c. 38, public laws 1921;*
2 relating to procedure to be employed by clerk upon receipt

3 of envelope purporting to contain absent voting ballot,
4 amended. Section one hundred and forty of chapter seven
5 of the revised statutes as supplemented by chapter thirty-
6 eight of public laws of nineteen hundred and twenty-one,
7 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "provided"
8 in the fifth line of said section, the following: 'And the
9 clerk shall keep lists of names and addresses, arranged by
10 voting precincts, of all voters whose names appear thereon,
11 together with the date when said envelopes were received,
12 and said lists shall be public records and preserved by the
13 clerk until the time set by law for the destruction of ballots
14 cast in the coming election,' so that the section as amended
15 shall read as follows:

'Sect. 140. *Procedure to be employed by clerk upon receipt*
2 of envelope purporting to contain absent voting ballot. Upon
3 receipt of an envelope purporting to contain an official ab-
4 sent voting ballot, the clerk of the city or town shall attach
5 thereto the application for an official absent voting ballot
6 executed by the voter whose name appears thereon and cer-
7 tified by the registration officials as hereinbefore provided,
8 and the clerk shall keep lists of names and addresses, ar-
9 ranged by voting precincts, of all voters whose names appear
10 thereon, together with the date when said envelopes were
11 received, and said lists shall be public records and preserved
12 by the clerk until the time set by law for the destruction of
13 ballots cast in the coming election. All such envelopes shall
14 be preserved unopened. Upon election day before the hour

15 for closing the polls the said clerk shall deliver all envelopes
16 received by him to the election officials in the several voting
17 precincts in which the voters named therein assert the right
18 to vote, together with a list signed by him of the voters'
19 names and addresses as shown upon said envelopes.'