

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 150

H. P. 496

House of Representatives, January 26, 1939.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lambert of Lewiston by request.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Registration of Voters.

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

R. S., c. 6, § 21, amended. Section 21 of chapter 6 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 21. Sessions of boards; names to be placed upon lists only by personal request; voter who moves into another ward not required to appear before board to have name transferred; names may be added on election day if omitted by error of assessors or boards; aggrieved party may have case determined by court. In cities of over ~~fifty thousand~~ 35,000 inhabitants said boards of registration shall be in session every secular day of the year for the purpose of registration and enrolment of voters, and to revise and correct the voting lists. Open sessions shall be held for the purpose of registration and enrolment of voters from 9 to 12 o'clock in the morning, and from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoons—Saturday afternoons excepted. From the 18th to the 13th secular days, inclusive, next prior to any election, the board shall be in session from 9 o'clock in the forenoon to 1 o'clock in the afternoon, from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and from 7 to 9 o'clock in the afternoon. On the 12 secular days

next prior to an election the board shall be in closed session to enable the board to verify the correctness of said lists and to complete and close up its records of said sessions, in cities of less than ~~fifty thousand~~ 35,000 and over 25,000 inhabitants; said boards shall be in session on each of the 16 secular days next prior to any election; the first 10 days thereof in open session, and the latter 6 days thereof in closed session, during the hours and for the purposes as above provided; in cities of less than 25 and over 10,000 inhabitants, 10 secular days, the first 7 days in open session and the latter 3 days in closed session as above provided; and in cities of less than 10,000 inhabitants, 9 secular days, the first 6 days in open session and the latter 3 days in closed session. No name, except as hereinafter provided, shall be added to or stricken from the general register of voters after 9 o'clock in the afternoon of the last of said days devoted to registration as above. Said board shall not place upon said voting lists during said revision of the same the name of any person who shall not personally appear before said board in open session and request it; but nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to require any voter, whose name is already upon any ward list and who afterwards moves from said ward to any other ward in said city, to appear personally before said board in order that his name may be transferred from one ward list to another. On the last of said secular days devoted to the completion of the records as above provided, the sessions of the board shall close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and certified copies of said voting lists shall at that hour be delivered to the clerks of said cities and receipts taken therefor. The wardens of cities shall be governed by said revised and corrected lists; and no names shall be added to or stricken from said lists on the day of election, except as hereinafter provided, and no person shall vote at any election whose name is not on said lists. No board of registration shall be answerable for any omission of a name or residence from said voting list or for any error in the same, unless such name and residence are correctly entered in said general register of voters; but on the day of election said board shall be in session, and shall give to any voter whose name has been stricken from said general register or omitted from said voting list through any error of the assessors or said board, or in whose name or residence as placed on said voting list a clerical error has been made, a certificate signed by a majority of the board, giving the corrected name and residence of such person, and directed to the officer presiding over the election; such officer shall on receipt of such certificate, allow the person therein named to vote and shall check his name on said certificate, and securely attach said certificate to said voting list. In case any person is aggrieved by any order or decision of said board, the whole case, upon petition for man-

damus, shall be reexamined and determined by any justice of the superior court in said county, which determination, however, shall not affect any election held prior to said decision of said justice. No costs shall be allowed either party in any such proceeding.'