

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1921

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session held in 1920.

Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

1920

Chapter 268.

An Act to Amend Chapter Seven, Section Nineteen, of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Assistance in Marking Ballot.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, many citizens of the State of Maine are prevented by their religious belief from marking a ballot on the thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty, and whereas legislation to enable them to mark their ballot by proxy is an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety, now therefore,

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

Sec. 1. R. S. c. 7, § 19; relating to assistance in marking ballot, amended. Chapter seven, section nineteen of the revised statutes is hereby amended by inserting between the word "same", and the word "shall", in the third line of said section, the following words:—'or who shall declare to the election officers that his religious faith prevents him from marking his ballot,' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Sec. 19. Voter whose religious faith prevents him from marking ballot may receive assistance. Any voter who shall declare to the presiding election officer or officers that he cannot mark his ballot by reason of physical disability, or from inability to read the same, or who shall declare to the election officers that his religious faith prevents him from marking his ballot, shall receive the assistance in the marking of his ballot, of two of the election clerks; such clerks shall not both represent one and the same political party, and they shall certify on the outside of such ballot that the same was marked by them, or by the voter with their assistance, and thereafter shall give no information concerning the same. The presiding election officer or officers may require every voter, who applies for such assistance, to make oath to his inability to mark his ballot, before such clerks shall be directed to assist as aforesaid, and such officer or officers are hereby qualified to administer such oath, and no clerk shall assist or offer to assist any voter in marking his ballot until directed so to do by the presiding election officer or officers.'

Sec. 2. Emergency. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble of this act, this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved August 31, 1920.