

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 3, 1981

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PUBLIC LAWS
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STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CHAPTER 256

H. P. 170 — L. D. 192

AN ACT to Permit Persons who Register Voters on Election Day to Vote by Absentee Ballot.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1979, c. 177, is further amended to read:

1. **Absentee voter.** “Absentee voter” means a person who is unable to cast his ballot in the municipality in which he is registered to vote, for one of the following reasons: Absence from the municipality during the time the polls are open on election day; physical incapacity not adversely affecting his soundness of mind; religious belief which prohibits his doing so; confinement in a jail or penal institution; ~~and~~ unreasonable distance from the polls, if he is a resident of a township or a coastal island ward or district; **or that the person was engaged in registering voters for that election on election day at the office of the registrar or the board of registration and as a result was unable to get to his voting place while the polls were open.**

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1258 is amended to read:

§ 1258. **Personal vote required when possible**

A person who has voted by absentee ballot, but who is present in the municipality and able to vote in person at the voting place on election day must do so, **unless that person is engaged in registering voters for that election on election day at the office of the registrar or the board of registration and as a result is unable to get to his voting place while the polls are open.**

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 1579, sub-§ 4, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 496, § 38 is amended to read:

4. **Failure to vote in person.** A person who has voted by absentee ballot but who is present and able to vote in person at the proper voting place on election day and fails to do so, **unless that person was engaged in registering voters for that election on election day at the office of the registrar or the board of registration and as a result was unable to get to his voting place while the polls were open;**