

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 1061 An Act To Protect Minor Political Parties That Seek To Retain Qualified Party Status

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 335 changes the requirements for a qualified political party to retain its qualified status. Under current law, a party retains its qualified status if, beginning with the second general election after the party qualifies, at least 10,000 voters who are enrolled in the party voted in the most recent general election. Under Public Law 2021, chapter 335, a party retains its qualified status if, beginning with the second general election after the party qualifies, either 10,000 voters were enrolled in the party on the date of the most recent general election or the party's gubernatorial or presidential candidate received at least 5% of the total votes cast in the State in the most recent gubernatorial or presidential election.

LD 1111 An Act To Update the Statutes Governing Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 238 amends certain laws governing the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes. It amends the composition of the board. It requires the board to submit a list of nominees for appointment to the board to the Governor for the Governor's consideration. It requires the board to request certain organizations and individuals to submit to the board names of suggested nominees. It limits board members to serving three full terms. It changes the number of annual meetings from six to four. It requires the board to elect a vice-chair and treasurer, in addition to a chair and secretary. It removes a requirement that the chief executive officer be an honorably discharged veteran. It repeals a provision in law related to renovations undertaken by the Maine Veterans' Homes Augusta nursing facility.

LD 1126 An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 439 requires the Department of the Secretary of State to create a process for accepting online voter registration applications through the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website beginning November 1, 2023. The process must require that an individual submitting an online voter registration application disclose a current, valid Maine driver's license or nondriver identification card number or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number. The Secretary of State must establish a process for using this information as well as the applicant's name and date of birth to verify the identity of each online voter registration applicant. An applicant who submits a driver's license or nondriver identification card number with the applicant's online voter registration must consent to use of an electronic image of the signature on the applicant's driver's license or nondriver identification card as the applicant's voter registration

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signature. An applicant who submits the last four digits of the applicant's social security number instead of a driver's license or nondriver identification card number must include an electronic image of the applicant's signature with the applicant's online voter registration application. The deadline for receipt of online voter registration applications is midnight on the 21st day before election day.

Public Law 2021, chapter 439 also directs the Secretary of State to allow previously registered voters to use the online voter registration application beginning November 1, 2023 to:

1. Notify the appropriate registrar of voters of the voter's new name or address when the voter's name is changed by marriage or other process of law or when the voter has moved within a municipality; and
2. Enroll in or withdraw from a political party or change the voter's party enrollment.

LD 1242 An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 387 makes the following changes to the laws governing the medical use of marijuana.

1. It changes the designation of rules governing the medical use of marijuana from routine technical to major substantive beginning July 1, 2021.
2. It provides that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services' rules governing the medical use of marijuana are those that were in effect on February 28, 2021.
3. It requires that before provisionally adopting new rules, including but not limited to rules necessary to implement a statewide electronic portal through which registered caregivers, registered dispensaries, marijuana testing facilities and manufacturing facilities may submit certain records, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services must:
 - A. Develop a process to consult with caregivers, registered caregivers, qualifying patients and medical providers with significant knowledge and experience certifying patients under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2422-A, subsection 2;
 - B. Develop a process to use when hiring consultants to advise on any new rules or proposed changes to existing rules governing the medical use of marijuana, in accordance with Title 22, section 2422-A, subsection 2; and
 - C. Using existing resources, conduct a study evaluating the economic effects that any new rules or proposed changes to existing rules may have, including but not limited to, the

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