

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LD 1830 An Act To Amend the Election Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 570 makes the following changes to the laws governing elections.

1. It adds an identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe as acceptable proof of identity when an applicant is registering to vote.
2. It provides that the deadline for a political party to caucus and nominate a candidate for a special election for State Representative or State Senator must be no less than 15 days after the Governor declares a vacancy in the office.
3. Under current law, the municipal clerk must designate a time in the 30-day period prior to an election when they will be present in licensed nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted living programs for the purpose of conducting absentee voting by residents of the facilities. Public Law 2021, chapter 570 authorizes the Secretary of State to designate alternative procedures for conducting absentee voting by residents of such facilities when the Department of Health and Human Services declares a health emergency or determines that a public health threat threatens the health, welfare or safety of the municipal clerk or the residents of the facility; when the Governor declares an extreme public health emergency; or when the facility prohibits entry by the municipal clerk.
4. It provides that the fiscal impact statement and summary of the proposed law must appear only on the first page of a direct initiative petition directly below the statement informing voters that they have the right to read the fiscal impact statement and summary. It also removes the requirement to print in bold type or capital letters the instructions for municipal clerks, petition circulators and petition signers that are printed on the direct initiative petition.
5. It establishes an expedited process for appealing a Secretary of State determination of the validity of a people's veto referendum petition or a direct initiative petition, if the Secretary of State's determination is made within 120 days of the election in which the referendum or initiative may appear on the ballot.
6. It requires the Secretary of State to draft and to provide public notice of the proposed ballot question for a direct initiative no later than 15 days after the Secretary of State determines that the direct initiative petition is valid, rather than within 10 days after the adjournment of the Legislature that precedes the election at which the direct initiative will be submitted to the voters.