

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§13-A** is enacted to read:

**13-A. Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means the partner of a voter who:

A. Has been legally domiciled with the voter for at least 12 months;

B. Is not legally married to or legally separated from another individual;

C. Is the sole partner of the voter and expects to remain so; and

D. Is jointly responsible with the voter for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint living arrangements, joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property.

**Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§20**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 310, §1, is further amended to read:

**20. Immediate family.** "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sister, brother, stepparent, stepgrandparent, stepchild, stepgrandchild, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, guardian or former guardian or domestic partner.’

## SUMMARY

This amendment clarifies the use of the term "domestic partner" by creating a definition in election law rather than relying on a cross-reference to another title. Current law provides that an immediate family member may request an absentee ballot for a person. This amendment changes the definition of "immediate family" under the election laws to include domestic partners. The definition of "domestic partner" as written in this amendment applies only to election law.