



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 397

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H.P. 251

House of Representatives, February 4, 2025

### An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BISHOP of Bucksport, MINGO of Calais, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §112-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 253, §11, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Other government-issued identification document.** A government-issued  
5 identification document without a photograph, including, but not limited to, a certified birth  
6 certificate or a signed social security card; or

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §112-A, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 246, §1, is  
8 repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §112-A, sub-§3-A**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 246, §2, is  
10 repealed.

11 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §671, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §20, is further  
12 amended to read:

13 **1. Name announced; photograph identification.** A voter who wishes to vote must  
14 present proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification document or a special  
15 voter photograph identification card pursuant to subsection 9 and state the voter's name and  
16 residence address to an election clerk, who shall announce the name in a loud, clear voice.  
17 If the voter's stated residence address is different from the residence address listed on the  
18 incoming voting list, the voter must be directed to complete an updated voter registration  
19 application before voting.

20 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §671, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

21 **9. Special voter photograph identification card.** A voter who wishes to vote and  
22 who does not possess a photograph identification document may request from the Secretary  
23 of State a special voter photograph identification card, which must be issued free of charge  
24 and is valid for voter identification under this section. The Secretary of State shall establish  
25 procedures through rulemaking for the issuance of special voter photograph identification  
26 cards under this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical  
27 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

28 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §671**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 750, §9 and affected by §14  
29 is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

30 For purposes of this section, "photograph identification document" means a current and  
31 valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States  
32 passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued under  
33 Title 25, chapter 252 if that permit includes a photograph. "Photograph identification  
34 document" does not include an identification issued by a college or university in this State.

35 **Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §752, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

36 **5. Form of photograph identification notice.** The Secretary of State shall design or  
37 approve the form of notice informing the voter that a copy of a photograph identification  
38 document must be submitted with the absentee ballot in accordance with section 754-B.

39 **Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §754-B** is enacted to read:

40 **§754-B. Photograph identification required**

1 **1. Photograph identification document defined.** For the purposes of this section,  
2 "photograph identification document" has the same meaning as in section 671, subsection  
3 1.

4 **2. Photograph identification.** A voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot shall  
5 submit with the absentee ballot proof of identity in the form of a copy of a photograph  
6 identification document or a special voter photograph identification card as described in  
7 subsection 3.

8 **3. Special voter photograph identification.** A voter who wishes to vote by absentee  
9 ballot and who does not possess a photograph identification document may request from  
10 the Secretary of State a special voter photograph identification card pursuant to section 671,  
11 subsection 9.

12 **4. Rules.** The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules  
13 adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter  
14 375, subchapter 2-A.

15 **Sec. 9. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

## 16 SUMMARY

17 This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph  
18 identification document when voting in person or by absentee ballot and removes certain  
19 official documents from the list of forms of documentation accepted to verify the identity  
20 of an applicant who is registering to vote. Under the bill, acceptable photograph  
21 identification is a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued  
22 in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a  
23 concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. The bill  
24 provides that a student photograph identification document issued by a college or university  
25 in this State may not be accepted for voter identification when voting or when registering  
26 to vote. The bill also allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification  
27 document to request a free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary  
28 of State.