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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1330, L.D. 1779, “An Act To Protect Election Integrity by Regulating Possession of Ballots and Voting Machines and Devices”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §698, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §§23 and 24, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The sealed tamper-proof ballot security containers of used ballots must remain sealed for at least 2 months after the election, unless the Secretary of State authorizes the clerk to open the containers prior to that date. After 2 months, the clerk shall open the containers in the presence of one or more witnesses and transfer the ballots to other containers for the remainder of the retention period described in section 23. The new containers must be securely sealed. Except as expressly authorized in this Title, rules adopted under this Title or other applicable state or federal law, the ballot security containers of state election materials and the ballot security containers of municipal election materials must remain sealed and in the possession, custody and control of the clerk until the contents of the containers are destroyed in accordance with section 23.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §698, sub-§2-B, as amended by PL 2001, c. 310, §46, is further amended to read:

2-B. Unused ballots placed in containers. At the close of the polls, all unused, unsealed absentee and regular ballots must be canceled by a physical mark unless all ballots are used in the course of the election. All sealed ballots must remain sealed. All unused ballots, including both the unsealed and the sealed ballots, must be placed in the containers in which the regular ballots were delivered. The containers containing the unused ballots must be clearly marked to indicate that the containers contain unused ballots. These ballots must be stored separately from the used ballots. Except as expressly authorized in this Title, rules adopted under this Title or other applicable state or federal law, the containers containing the unused ballots must remain sealed and in the possession, custody and control of the clerk until the unused ballots are destroyed in accordance with section 23.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

