

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 858 - L.D. 1344

An Act to Improve the State's Election Laws by Amending the Laws Relating to Automatic Voter Registration

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §121, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 439, §2 and affected by §15, is further amended to read:

1-A. Identification and proof. Registration applications taken by outside agencies must be transferred to the Secretary of State within 5 days of receipt. An applicant who attempts to register within 30 days of an election must be advised that the registrar might not receive the application before the deadline for online, mail or 3rd-person registration or for automatic voter registration set forth in section 121-A, but that the applicant may register in person no later than the deadline for in-person registration set forth in section 121-A.

Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from outside agencies 30 days or more before an election must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 7 business days of receipt. Registration applications received by the Secretary of State from outside agencies less than 30 days before an election must be transferred to the appropriate registrar's office within 5 business days of receipt. Registration applications submitted online must be received by the Secretary of State by ~~midnight on the 21st day before election day~~ the deadline for registration set forth in section 121-A and must be transmitted to the appropriate registrar's office ~~daily~~ the next business day following receipt. Registration applications transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 232 or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 233 must be received by the Secretary of State by the deadline for registration set forth in section 121-A and must be transmitted to the appropriate registrar's office the next business day following receipt. Registration applications by mail or by a 3rd person must be received in the registrar's office by the close of business on the 21st day before election day in order for persons' names to appear on the incoming voting list for that election. The 20-day period before the election is the closed period for outside registrations, except for those registration applications transmitted by the deadline for registration set forth in section 121-A by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 232 or by a source agency

other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 233. The registrar shall send the notice required by section 122 no later than the 18th day before election day to all voters whose applications were submitted online, submitted by mail or submitted by a 3rd person as long as the registrar received the application by the 21st day before election day.

A person who registers in person shall show proof of identity and residency. If satisfactory proof of identity and residency ~~can not~~ cannot be provided to the registrar or deputy, the person's name is entered into the central voter registration system and placed on the incoming voting list and the person casts a challenged ballot. If the person shows satisfactory proof of identity and residency prior to voting on election day, the person's ballot is not challenged.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §121-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 439, §3 and affected by §15, is further amended to read:

§121-A. Deadline for registration

The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications submitted by mail or by a 3rd person is the close of business on the 21st day before election day. The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications submitted online is midnight on the 21st day before election day. The deadline for receipt of voter registration applications transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 232 or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 233 is midnight on the 7th day before election day. The deadline for in-person registration is the close of the polls on election day.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §130, as amended by PL 2021, c. 439, §5 and affected by §15, is further amended to read:

§130. Applications for voter registration

A person who completes a written or online voter registration application, as provided in section 152, may submit the application online, mail the application or have the application delivered to the registrar in the person's municipality of residence before the deadline for online, mail or 3rd-person registrations in section 121-A, to be entered into the central voter registration system and placed on the incoming voting list prior to the next election; except that applications completed under section 122, subsection 5 may be delivered during the closed period for immediate placement on the incoming voting list. A voter registration application transmitted by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 232 or by a source agency other than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 233 to the appropriate registrar's office before the deadline in section 121-A must be entered into the central voter registration system and placed on the incoming voting list prior to the next election.

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect February 1, 2024.