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No. 286

H.P. 202

House of Representatives, February 1, 2021

An Act To Make Election Day a State Holiday

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 28, 2021. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1051**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 59, §1 and c. 475, §49, is
3 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **§1051. Closings for legal holidays**

5 This section governs the days on which court may not be held.

6 **1. Legal holidays.** Court may not be held on Sunday or:

7 A. Any day designated for the annual Thanksgiving;

8 B. New Year's Day, January 1st;

9 C. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the 3rd Monday in January;

10 D. Washington's Birthday, the 3rd Monday in February;

11 E. Patriot's Day, the 3rd Monday in April;

12 F. Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, but if the Federal Government designates
13 May 30th as the date for observance of Memorial Day, the 30th of May;

14 G. The 4th of July;

15 H. Labor Day, the first Monday of September;

16 I. Indigenous Peoples Day, the 2nd Monday in October;

17 J. Election Day, the Tuesday following the first Monday in November;

18 K. Veterans Day, November 11th; or

19 L. Christmas Day.

20 **2. Exception; Sundays.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may order
21 that court be held on a legal holiday when the Chief Justice finds that the interests of justice
22 and judicial economy in any particular case will be served. The public offices in county
23 buildings may be closed to business on the holidays named in this section. When any one
24 of the holidays named in this section falls on Sunday, the Monday following must be
25 observed as a holiday, with all the privileges applying to any of the days named in this
26 section.

27 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §59** is enacted to read:

28 **§59. Election Day established as state holiday**

29 Election Day, the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, is a state holiday
30 and all nonessential state offices must be closed.

31 **Sec. 3. 9-B MRSA §145, sub-§1, ¶I-1** is enacted to read:

32 I-1. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, Election Day;

33 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4802, sub-§1, ¶E-1** is enacted to read:

34 E-1. Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November;

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SUMMARY

This bill designates Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, as a state holiday.