An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who Send Absentee Ballots by Mail

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

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §752, first ¶, as amended by PL 1985, c. 357, §8, is further amended to read:

At least 3 months before any election, the Secretary of State shall furnish each municipality with a reasonable number of dated absentee ballot applications. A reasonable time, not less than 30 days unless an emergency exists, before any election, the Secretary of State shall furnish each municipality with a reasonable number of absentee ballots and return envelopes, postage prepaid for return when the ballot is mailed from within the United States.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §752, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU, §2 and affected by §7, is further amended to read:

3. Form of return envelope. The Secretary of State shall design or approve the form of the absentee ballot return envelope, postage prepaid for return when the ballot is mailed from within the United States. The Secretary of State may not design or approve a return envelope for use in a general election that includes any mark visible on the outside of the return envelope or a space designated for making a mark visible on the outside of the return envelope that indicates the political party of the voter to whom the absentee ballot is issued.

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect March 1, 2024.

SUMMARY

This bill provides for postage prepaid return envelopes for voters in the United States sending absentee ballots by mail.