An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

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

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner and Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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

1. Name announced. A voter who wishes to vote must present proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification document and state the voter's name and residence address to an election clerk, who shall announce the name in a loud, clear voice. If the voter's stated residence address is different from the residence address listed on the incoming voting list, the voter must be directed to complete an updated voter registration application before voting. For purposes of this section, "photograph identification document" means a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued under Title 25, chapter 252 if that permit includes a photograph. "Photograph identification document" does not include an identification issued by a college or university in this State.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §671, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Special voter photograph identification card. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a voter who wishes to vote and who does not possess a photograph identification document may request from the Secretary of State a special voter photograph identification card, which must be issued free of charge and is valid for voter identification under this section. The Secretary of State shall establish procedures through rulemaking for the issuance of special voter photograph identification cards under this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification document when voting in person. Acceptable forms of photograph identification are a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university in this State may not be accepted for voter identification. The bill also allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification document to request a free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary of State.