



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 886

H.P. 552

House of Representatives, February 24, 2023

**An Act to Allow Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots After the 3rd
Business Day Before Election Day to Voters Who Have a
Nonphysical Disability and Voters Who Support a Person with a
Disability**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative OSHER of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§2, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §18, is
3 further amended to read:

4 D. To any voter, immediate family member or 3rd person whose request was received
5 in the municipal office after the 3rd business day before election day, unless the voter
6 signs an application, designed by the Secretary of State, stating one of the following
7 reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after the deadline:

8 (1) Unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are
9 open on election day;

10 (2) Physical or other disability;

11 (3) Inability to travel to the polls if the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward
12 or precinct; or

13 (4) An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter's being unable to leave
14 home or a treatment facility; or

15 (5) The voter is an informal caregiver, parent or guardian providing direct support
16 to a person with a disability. For purposes of this subparagraph, "informal
17 caregiver" means a person who provides care to a person with a disability on a
18 volunteer or uncompensated basis; or

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill expands the list of persons who may receive an absentee ballot after the 3rd
21 business day before election day to include persons with any disability, rather than persons
22 with a physical disability as current law provides, and to include persons providing
23 volunteer or uncompensated care to a person with a disability.