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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 91, L.D. 158, “An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Establish a Date to Begin Voting by Absentee Ballot in the Presence of the Clerk'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §21, is further amended to read:

8. Absentee voting in presence of clerk. A For the 30 days preceding an election, during the hours when the clerk's office is open, a person who wishes to vote by absentee ballot may, without completing an application, vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk, except as provided in subsection 2. Before issuing a ballot, the clerk shall verify that it is the voter who is requesting the ballot by confirming the voter's residence address and year of birth with the information in the voter's record. The method of voting is otherwise as prescribed in this article. After the person has voted, the clerk shall sign the affidavit on the return envelope as a witness, indicate on the envelope that the voter voted in the presence of a clerk and ensure that the affidavit on the return envelope is properly completed by the voter. ~~For the 45 days preceding an election, during the hours when the clerk's office is open and may be conducting absentee voting~~ During this 30-day period, the display or distribution of any advertising material intended to influence a voter's decision regarding a candidate or question on the ballot for that election is prohibited within the clerk's office and on public property within 250 feet of the entrance to the building in which the clerk's office is located.

This subsection does not apply to the display or distribution of any campaign advertising material on private property that is within 250 feet of the entrance to the building in which the clerk's office is located. For purposes of this section, "private property" includes privately owned property subject to a public right-of-way that is an easement right-of-way.

1 This subsection does not apply to campaign advertising material on automobiles traveling
2 to and from the municipal office or parked on municipal property while the occupants are
3 visiting the municipal office to conduct municipal business. It does not prohibit a person
4 who is at the municipal office for the purpose of conducting municipal business or for
5 absentee voting from wearing a campaign button when the longest dimension of the button
6 does not exceed 3 inches.'

7 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
8 number to read consecutively.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the earliest date for
11 voting by absentee ballot in the presence of a clerk as 30 days preceding an election during
12 the hours when the clerk's office is open.