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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 279, L.D. 413, Bill, “An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots”

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

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2011, c. 534, §18, is further amended to read:

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

- (1) ~~Unexpected absence~~ Absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- (2) Physical disability;
- (3) Inability to travel to the polls if the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct; or
- (4) An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter's being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and is the majority report of the committee. Current law provides for certain circumstances when a voter is permitted to request an absentee ballot after the 3rd business day preceding election day. One of those circumstances is when a voter attests that the voter will be unexpectedly absent from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day. The amendment provides that an application for an absentee ballot may be accepted after the deadline if

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 the voter will be absent on election day without the voter attesting that the absence was
2 unexpected.