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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1122, L.D. 1528, Bill, “An Act To Amend the Election Laws and Other Related Laws”

Amend the bill in section 18 in subsection 1 in the 3rd line (page 7, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "day." and inserting the following: 'day-, except that in municipalities with a population of less than 500, the polls must be opened no later than 10:00 a.m.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 23 and 24.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 25 the following:

**'Sec. 26. 21-A MRSA §674, sub-§1, ¶G** is enacted to read:

G. Having been entrusted with another voter's marked ballot, intentionally or knowingly discloses the content of that ballot to another person.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 26 and 27.

Amend the bill in section 31 in subsection 4 in the first line (page 10, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The" and inserting the following: 'After giving notice to the state chair of each political party, the'

Amend the bill in section 31 in subsection 4 in the 2nd line (page 10, line 5 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "clerk," the following: 'in the presence of one or more witnesses and'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 31 the following:

**'Sec. 32. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

**9. Restrictions on absentee voting in presence of clerk.** Except as allowed by subsection 5, a municipal clerk may not remove absentee ballots from the municipal office for the purpose of conducting absentee voting in the presence of the clerk except upon receipt of an application or written request from the voter. The clerk may not be assisted in delivering or providing an absentee ballot by any person who is a candidate or a member of a candidate's immediate family. Assistance includes, but is not limited to,

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 providing transportation to a clerk who is delivering absentee ballots to a voter who is not  
2 marking the absentee ballot in the municipal clerk's office.'

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

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment provides that a municipality with a population of 500 or less may  
7 open its voting place as late as 10:00 a.m. on election day. All other municipalities must  
8 open their voting places no later than 8:00 a.m. The amendment requires notification to  
9 be made to the state chairs of each political party when the Secretary of State authorizes a  
10 municipal clerk to open a sealed ballot container. Finally, the amendment adds a new  
11 section to the bill that prohibits a municipal clerk from removing absentee ballots from  
12 the municipal office to conduct in-person absentee voting unless requested to do so by the  
13 voter and prohibits a candidate or a member of the candidate's immediate family from  
14 assisting the clerk in delivering absentee ballots.

15 The bill proposes to make the disclosure of another person's voted ballot a Class D  
16 crime. The amendment makes such disclosure a Class E crime.