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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1172, L.D. 1575, “An Act To Improve Maine’s Election Laws”

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

‘Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §112-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 253, §11, is amended to read:

3. Other official documents. An official document, including, but not limited to, a document confirming eligibility determinations for public benefits, a utility bill, a bank statement, a government check, a paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §112-A, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Student photograph identification document. A student photograph identification document that is issued by a state-approved public or private school located in this State or that is issued by a duly authorized institution of higher learning that operates in this State; or

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §605-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. For absentee voters. The Secretary of State shall prepare instructions for absentee voter applicants describing the reasons that a voter may request an absentee ballot after the deadline set forth in section 753-B, subsection 2, paragraph D and provide these instructions to each municipality. Each municipality shall include these instructions on a sign posted at the municipal office and on any website, social media page or other media that the municipality uses to communicate election information.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §626-A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 447, §17, is amended to read:

§626-A. Voting place report

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 The municipal clerk shall file a voting place report at least 60 days before each election
2 conducted under this Title, on a form designed by the Secretary of State, with information
3 about each voting place, including, but not limited to, the location of each voting place, the
4 location of each secured drop box, the times for in-person absentee voting at the clerk’s
5 office under section 753-B, subsection 8, the poll opening time and the number of voting
6 booths that will be used.

7 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §627, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

8 **5. Rulemaking.** The Secretary of State may adopt rules governing pollwatchers,
9 additional party workers and others present in the polling place as described in subsection
10 4. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title
11 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12 **Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §759, sub-§6,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §78, is repealed
13 and the following enacted in its place:

14 **6. Counting and results prohibited before the polls close.** The absentee ballots may
15 not be counted, voter intent may not be determined and election results may not be obtained
16 or released until after the polls have closed on election day and all election day ballots have
17 been cast and all absentee ballots have been processed. A municipality that uses a high-
18 speed ballot tabulator and receives results at the completion of the ballot scanning may not
19 view the results until after the polls close on election day.'

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

22 SUMMARY

23 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes and replaces
24 the bill. The amendment makes the following changes to the election laws.

25 1. Like the bill, the amendment allows an individual who is registering to vote to verify
26 the individual’s identity with a student photograph identification document that is issued
27 by a state-approved public or private school located in this State or that is issued by a duly
28 authorized institution of higher learning that operates in this State.

29 2. Similar to the bill, it directs the Secretary of State to prepare instructions for absentee
30 voter applicants describing the reasons that a voter may request and receive an absentee
31 ballot after the period for no-excuse absentee voting has ended and requires municipalities
32 to include these instructions on a sign posted at the municipal office and on any website,
33 social media page or other media that the municipality uses to communicate election
34 information.

35 3. It requires the municipal clerk to include in the voting place report, which is filed
36 with the Secretary of State at least 60 days before each election, the location of each secured
37 drop box and the times for in-person absentee voting in the municipality.

38 4. It authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules governing pollwatchers, additional
39 party workers and others present in the polling place as described in the Maine Revised
40 Statutes, Title 21-A, section 627, subsection 4.

