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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 68, L.D. 102, “An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots”

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §760-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 636, §16, is further amended to read:

2. Notice of early processing. The clerk must give notice of the municipality's intent to process absentee ballots prior to election day using a notice of early processing form provided by the Secretary of State, stating the days and times that the clerk intends to begin processing absentee ballots and the inspection period provided in subsection 3. At least ~~60~~ 30 days before election day, the clerk shall provide a copy of the notice of early processing to the Secretary of State and the chairs of each political party of the municipality indicating that early processing of absentee ballots will occur. The notice to the political parties must be considered sufficient as long as it is mailed to the last address of each municipal chair that is known to the clerk. The notice to the Secretary of State may be delivered by mail or facsimile or as a scanned attachment to an e-mail address established by the Secretary of State. If the notice is not received by the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. on the ~~60th~~ 30th day before election day, the municipality may not process absentee ballots prior to election day. The clerk shall post a copy of the notice of early processing with the notice of election as provided in section 621-A.'

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

SUMMARY

Under current law, the municipal clerk must notify the Secretary of State and the chair of each political party in the municipality at least 60 days before election day of the clerk's intent to process absentee ballots prior to election day. This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that the municipal clerk must send the notice at least 30 days prior to election day.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT