

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 1172 - L.D. 1575

An Act To Improve Maine's Election Laws

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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

The municipal clerk shall file a voting place report at least 60 days before each election conducted under this Title, on a form designed by the Secretary of State, with information about each voting place, including, but not limited to, the location of each voting place, the location of each secured drop box, the times for in-person absentee voting at the clerk's

office under section 753-B, subsection 8, the poll opening time and the number of voting booths that will be used.

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

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

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §759, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §78, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

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