



Wayne R. Parry
851 Alfred Road
Arundel, ME 04046
Wayne.Parry@legislature.maine.gov
Residence: (207) 286-9146

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
MAINE RELAY 711

Testimony on
L.D. 158, “An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot”

Presented by
Representative Wayne R. Parry
District 140

Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
Monday, February 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

I am State Representative Wayne R. Parry, and I proudly represent District 140, Arundel, Dayton, and a portion of Lyman. It is an honor to appear before you today for the purpose of introducing L.D. 158, “*An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot.*”

As all of us can say, “you learn something new every day.” Well what I learned at the end of October last year was that after running eight campaigns, the 30-day rule for absentee balloting to start wasn’t the actual start date. It is a date when the Secretary of State has to get ballots to the towns and cities. I also learned that as soon as towns and cities get ballots, their citizens can start voting. This is where the red flags go up for me. So we are allowing some voters to have more days to vote than other voters?

This bill is pretty straight forward. It directs the Secretary of State to set a date each year for when **ALL VOTERS** start voting early. By setting this date, if 30 days is on a weekend, there are no questions when voting will start. The 30-day language for the requirement for the Secretary of State to get ballots to municipalities is fine, or that can be tweaked. I believe the language of the bill would allow these changes.

I just believe **ALL VOTING** for everyone should start on the same day.

This bill doesn’t change how overseas or military ballots are handled or any of their date requirements.

Thank you. I’d be glad to answer any questions.