Julie Flynn Skowhegan

The proposals you are presenting will actually make ballots less secure. The purpose for an absentee ballot is to allow someone to vote if they are not going to be able to vote in person on the day of the vote. This bill is stripping some of the protections of a ballot several ways and makes the ballots less secure. 1. 3rd person picking up your ballot allows for ballot harvesting which means ANYONE can pick up a ballot from a voter making it less secure. 2. It allows you to absentee vote right up until the day of the election in front of a clerk. That means that absentee voter could vote in person so there is no purpose in this change other than to allow that ballots could be used by someone attempting fraud to make up or loose ballots when these are counted after the in person votes are counted. Maine also has early voting so there is no reason to do away with the 3 day limit of stopping the absentee voting. If they are coming into the town office 3 days before the vote, they can vote in person in the town office during early voting. If the town does not have early voting that is something that can be changed at the local level.