

David Leighton  
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SUMMARY LD 208, HP 143

This bill eliminates restrictions on the issuance of absentee ballots after the 3rd day before an election, removes deadlines for the return of an absentee ballot by a 3rd person and allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the clerk until 8:00 p.m. on the day of any election.

AN ACT TO EXPAND ABSENTEE BALLOTS which this bill is titled, actually makes the ballots and the vote LESS secure and can allow tampering with the outcome of the vote. We want a MORE secure election not a less secure election.

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 why are they allowing this? Absentee votes get counted later than in person votes, meaning after the IN person votes are counted so absentee ballots could be used by someone attempting fraud to make up or loose ballots. . 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 they have no early voting the citizens can propose that change themselves.