



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428

Date: January 22, 2025

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association
Ashley Rand Vice Chairperson, Legislative Policy
Committee Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 397 – An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is Neither For Nor Against LD 397 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Clerks acknowledge that requiring voters to provide ID when voting is reasonable and could enhance voters' faith in the voting process. The act of verifying a voter's identification may add a few seconds to each voter's check-in but shouldn't significantly impact the voting process.

Although a process for providing free IDs for voting through the Secretary of State is intended to provide free ID for those voters who lack a photo ID, there will always be a segment of the population, albeit a small segment, that will not be able to navigate the system to obtain one for reasons such as lack of knowledge/understanding of the requirement, lack of knowledge/understanding of the process to obtain the free ID, lack of transportation, lack of technology, etc. Although rules will be adopted to administer this process, clerks question how the voter would be identified by the Secretary of State if they have absolutely no ID.

Members questioned the cost to administer this free voter identification card process. In addition, clerks wondered if the town of residence would be included on the free ID card, and if the voter would be required to obtain a new one if they change addresses to a new municipality.

Clerks questioned whether specifying certain groups of people, such as those who have concealed carry permits or college students, could be a violation of federal law.



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Members expressed concern that the list of photograph identification documents being proposed to be used for voting differs from the list of documents that can be used to register to vote. This difference could potentially result in a citizen being allowed to register to vote at the polls on election day, but then not be able to vote. We would suggest that section 121 of Title 21-A be considered for further amendment to match section 671, should this LD be considered for passage.

Although not included in this bill, members questioned the process to be used for those who cannot provide ID when voting. This process, whether using the challenged ballot currently detailed in statute or some type of provisional ballot process, could result in delays at the polls. In addition, election results could be delayed if voters are provided time after the election to provide ID.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at 207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov.