



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1306

S.P. 449

In Senate, April 2, 2013

An Act To Enhance Voter Registration for Persons with Disabilities

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PATRICK of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville and
Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: BEAULIEU of Auburn, BRIGGS of
Mexico, FOWLE of Vassalboro, GILBERT of Jay, RUSSELL of Portland, SAUCIER of
Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §181, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 407, §14 and
3 c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

4 B. Outside agencies, or their successors, that include the following:

5 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services, ~~Bureau of Family~~
6 ~~Independence Services~~' office for family independence, ~~Bureau of Health and~~
7 ~~Bureau of Rehabilitation~~ office of aging and disability services and office of
8 substance abuse and mental health services;

9 (2) The uniformed service recruitment offices;

10 (3) The public high schools; ~~and~~

11 (4) The offices of municipal clerks and registrars.;

12 (5) The Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services;

13 (6) All state agencies that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in
14 providing services to people with disabilities, including but not limited to
15 agencies that provide benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy
16 Families program; the Women, Infants, and Children Special Supplement Food
17 Program of the United States Child Nutrition Act of 1966; the MaineCare
18 program; or the statewide food supplement program;

19 (7) All state agencies that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in
20 providing services to persons with disabilities; and

21 (8) Any office providing support services to students with disabilities that is
22 located on a postsecondary school campus designated as part of the University of
23 Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime
24 Academy.

25 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §181, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 695, §20, is
26 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

27 **2. Services.** At each designated voter registration agency under subsection 1, the
28 following services must be made available:

29 A. Distribution of voter registration application forms to be processed by mail;

30 B. Assistance to applicants in completing voter registration application forms to the
31 same degree as is provided by the office with regard to the completion of its own
32 forms, unless the applicant refuses such assistance; and

33 C. Acceptance of completed voter registration application forms for transmittal to the
34 appropriate state election official.

35 Voter registration services must be made available for persons with disabilities in their
36 homes if the designated voter registration agency under subsection 1 provides services to
37 such persons in their homes.

38 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §181, sub-§§3, 4 and 5** are enacted to read:

- 1 **3. Prohibitions.** A person who provides services described in subsection 2 may not:
- 2 A. Seek to influence an applicant’s political preference or party enrollment;
- 3 B. Display political preference or party allegiance;
- 4 C. Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of
5 which is to discourage the applicant from registering to vote; or
- 6 D. Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of
7 which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register
8 has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.
- 9 **4. Person may decline to register.** A person may decline to register to vote under
10 this section. Information relating to a declination to register to vote may not be used for
11 any purpose other than voter registration.
- 12 **5. Transmittal deadline.** A completed registration application accepted at a
13 designated voter registration agency must be transmitted in accordance with section 121,
14 subsection 1-A.

SUMMARY

16 This bill adds state agencies, including agencies that provide services to persons with
17 disabilities, to the list of agencies where voter registration services must be made
18 available. It specifies which services must be made available at these agencies and
19 prohibits certain actions by persons who provide these services that would improperly
20 influence a person's registration decisions.