

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 677 - L.D. 1690

An Act Regarding Ongoing Absentee Voting and Tracking of Absentee Ballots

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-A, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU, §3 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

8. Application for ongoing absentee voter status. A voter who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identifies as having a disability may apply for status as an ongoing absentee voter. Each qualified applicant must automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is entitled to vote and need not submit a separate request for each election.

A. An application for status as an ongoing absentee voter must be made by a voter using procedures designed by the Secretary of State. ~~These procedures must include a process for notifying the voter that if the voter moves out of the municipality, that voter's status as an ongoing absentee voter in that municipality terminates.~~ A voter may obtain assistance in completing an application for ongoing absentee voter status pursuant to subsection 5.

B. The clerk or Secretary of State shall terminate a voter's ongoing absentee voter status only upon:

- (1) The written request of the voter;
- (2) The death or disqualification of the voter;
- (3) The cancellation of the voter's registration record in the central voter registration system;
- (4) The return of an absentee ballot as undeliverable; or
- ~~(5) The failure of the voter to vote by absentee ballot for a general election; or~~
- (6) The designation of the voter's status as inactive in the central voter registration system.

This subsection does not apply to uniformed service voters or overseas voters who are covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 United States Code, Section 20302 (2019).

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect December 31, 2025.