

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 68 - L.D. 102

An Act To Extend the Time Frame for Processing Absentee Ballots

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §760-B, first ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 371, §37, is further amended to read:

Any municipality or jurisdiction that conducts its own elections may opt to process absentee ballots beginning on the ~~4th~~ 7th day immediately prior to election day. The clerk shall use the following procedure when processing the absentee ballots during this time.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §760-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 636, §16, is further amended to read:

2. Notice of early processing. The clerk must give notice of the municipality's intent to process absentee ballots prior to election day using a notice of early processing form provided by the Secretary of State, stating the days and times that the clerk intends to begin processing absentee ballots and the inspection period provided in subsection 3. At least ~~60~~ 30 days before election day, the clerk shall provide a copy of the notice of early processing to the Secretary of State and the chairs of each political party of the municipality indicating that early processing of absentee ballots will occur. The notice to the political parties must be considered sufficient as long as it is mailed to the last address of each municipal chair that is known to the clerk. The notice to the Secretary of State may be delivered by mail or facsimile or as a scanned attachment to an e-mail address established by the Secretary of State. If the notice is not received by the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. on the ~~60th~~ 30th day before election day, the municipality may not process absentee ballots prior to election day. The clerk shall post a copy of the notice of early processing with the notice of election as provided in section 621-A.