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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 552, L.D. 886, “An Act to Allow Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots After the 3rd Business Day Before Election Day to Voters Who Have a Nonphysical Disability and Voters Who Support a Person with a Disability”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Allow Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots After the 3rd Business Day Before Election Day to Voters with a Physical or Mental Disability and Certain Voters' Caregivers'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-B, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2021, c. 273, §18, is further amended to read:

D. To any voter, immediate family member or 3rd person whose request was received in the municipal office after the 3rd business day before election day, unless the voter signs an application, designed by the Secretary of State, stating one of the following reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after the deadline:

- (1) Unexpected absence of the voter from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- (2) ~~Physical~~ Self-certification as a voter with a physical or mental disability;
- (3) Inability to travel to the polls if the voter is a resident of ~~a coastal~~ an island ward or precinct; or
- (4) An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter's being unable to leave home or a treatment facility or has resulted in the voter's caregiver's being unable to attend the polls during the entire time the polls are open on election day; or'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the bill title and expands the list of persons who may receive an absentee ballot after the 3rd business day before election day to include voters who self-certify as a person with a physical or mental disability, rather than a person with a physical disability as current law provides, and to include a voter's caregiver, who, as a result of the voter's incapacity or illness, is unable to attend the polls during the entire time the polls are open on election day rather than including a voter who is an informal caregiver, parent or guardian providing direct support to a person with a disability as provided in the bill. It also expands the current provision regarding voters who are residents of a coastal island ward or precinct to include any island ward or precinct.