

Sponsor Representative Roberts's Proposed Amendment to LD 112
(Presented at the public hearing on Feb. 1, 2021)

Sec. 23. 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 30th ~~60th~~ 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.

SUMMARY

Under current law, the municipal clerk must notify the Secretary of State and the chair of each political party in the municipality at least 60 days before election day of the clerk's intent to process absentee ballots prior to election day. This amendment provides that the municipal clerk must send the notice at least 30 days prior to election day.