

§153-A. Alternative registration procedure for voters with disabilities

1. Alternative application for voter who is unable to sign. An applicant who is unable to sign that applicant's name because of a physical disability may use a signature stamp or authorize another person to sign on behalf of the applicant on an application to register to vote or to enroll or make any changes to the applicant's voter registration status, as provided by this Title. The individual assisting the applicant shall prepare and sign the registration application or form, along with an alternative registration signature statement, at the applicant's direction, in the presence of the applicant and one corroborating witness. The individual assisting the applicant and the corroborating witness must be registered to vote in the State, but neither may be a candidate, the applicant's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of the applicant's union. The alternative registration signature statement form must be designed by the Secretary of State and must indicate that:

A. The applicant is unable to sign the applicant's name because of a physical disability; [PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

B. The applicant meets all the qualifications to become a registered voter in the State or to make the requested changes to the voter's registration; and [PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

C. The information supplied on the form concerning the applicant is true. [PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

2. Alternative application for voter who becomes unable to sign after being registered. A voter who becomes unable to sign that voter's name because of a physical disability after being registered to vote and who wishes to change the voter's registration or enrollment status may do so by using a signature stamp or by authorizing another registered voter to sign on the voter's behalf if the voter files with the voter registration application or form an alternative registration signature statement prepared in accordance with subsection 1.

[PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

3. Signing petitions. Once an alternative registration signature statement is on file with the registrar, the voter may authorize any other Maine-registered voter to sign candidate petitions, direct initiative of legislation petitions, people's veto petitions and any Maine Clean Election Act forms requiring a voter's signature in the presence and at the direction of the voter, except that the individual assisting the voter may not be a candidate, the circulator of the petition or form, the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union. In addition to using the voter's signature stamp or signing for the voter, the individual assisting the voter must print and sign the individual's own name and residence address on the petition or form and attest that the individual is signing on the voter's behalf. This method of signing satisfies the requirements in this Title that voters personally sign candidate petitions. This method of signing also satisfies the requirements of the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 20 that petitions for the direct initiative of legislation and people's veto petitions contain the original signatures of the petitioners.

[PL 2021, c. 273, §2 (AMD).]

4. Registrar assistance. An applicant or voter described in subsection 1 or 2 who does not have another registered voter available to assist the applicant or voter may request the registrar to provide that assistance. If the applicant or voter is unable to appear at the office of the registrar, the registrar shall visit the individual to provide that assistance, upon request and with reasonable notice. The municipality shall pay the registrar travel expenses at the same rate paid other municipal employees.

[PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 196, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 568, §6 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 273, §2 (AMD).

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