

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

*One Hundred and Sixth  
Legislature*

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

**Volume II**

**April 23, 1973 to June 5, 1973**

KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

The Chair laid before the House the following matter: Bill "An Act to Revise the Election Laws" Senate Paper 613, L. D. 1916, which was tabled and later today assigned:

House Amendment "A" was adopted.

Mr. JALBERT of Lewiston offered House Amendment "C" and moved its adoption.

House Amendment "C" (H-382) was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bath, Mr. Ross.

Mr. ROSS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: House Amendment "C" would completely do away with voting the absentee ballots at one place.

Now, this was one of the chief recommendations of the municipal clerks, including Mr. Berube the clerk from Lewiston; Mr. Duffy from Portland and many other smaller places.

Now, Mr. Berube is one of the outstanding and most respected clerks in the state. He is chairman of the state association.

The purpose of this legislation was to save time in counting the absentee ballots to assure greater accuracy and to make it much more efficient. Now, they are counted in the wards, and the absentees are counted last. The counters in many places are older people. By this time they are very tired, and this holds up the election results.

Now, this section of the law does not make this mandatory, but it says if they want to have them counted in a central place, they may. But the amendment before you right now would do away with the whole provision of counting absentees in a central place.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. JALBERT.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I might like to continue the love affair between the city clerk and Mr. Ross by saying that I presented a bill years ago that would make the city clerk of the City of Lewiston a full-time employee — I mean a permanent employee. He does

not have to be subjected to yearly appointments. So personally, I probably would indicate that way that I have got a little feeling for the city clerk in Lewiston, but I am not married to him. I did not give him a mortgage on my soul.

This amendment is a good amendment. And if this means Mr. Ross' people in Bath are tired, just call on us in Lewiston and we will send him a few counters. This is a good amendment.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Portland, Mrs. Boudreau.

Mrs. BOUDREAU: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: As Mr. Ross said this is permissive, and I am not hung up on it one way or another. But if you do accept this amendment, the amendment must be amended, because in section 51 the last sentence must be retained because that applies to no matter where your ballots are counted and is a new section.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lewiston, Mr. JALBERT.

Mr. JALBERT: Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I might say that I inherited this amendment this morning, I haven't even looked at it. And it is my friend from Bath, Mr. Ross that got me up on my feet. I just stated my position, I state my case and there it is.

On motion of Mr. Binnette of Old Town, tabled pending the motion of Mr. JALBERT of Lewiston to adopt House Amendment "C" and tomorrow assigned.

The Chair laid before the House the following matter:

Bill "An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Act" (H. P. 1375) (L. D. 1831) which was tabled earlier in the day and later today assigned.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is on the motion of the gentleman from Bar Harbor, Mr. MacLeod to accept the Majority "Ought not to pass" Report. A roll call has been requested.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Sheltra.