

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 222

H. P. 169

House of Representatives, January 12, 1981.

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Permit Additional Polling Places in Municipalities with Large Fluctuations in Voter Turnout.

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

21 MRSA § 1572-A is enacted to read:

§ 1572-A. Additional voting places

1. **Request.** If, at the request of any municipality made no later than 45 days prior to an election, the Secretary of State determines that the number of voters voting at the election in that municipality will probably exceed, by 25%, the average number voting during the previous 3 elections of similar scope, a municipality may, within 5 days of that determination, request permission to establish an additional number of voting places.

2. **Determination.** The Secretary of State shall, within 5 days, grant or deny the request. He shall grant the request if he is satisfied that previous fluctuations in the number of voters voting at elections in the municipality evidence the need for additional voting places. If he grants the request, he shall provide the necessary ballots and material under section 601. If the request is granted, municipal officers and election officials shall comply with all other provisions of this title regarding voting places.

3. **Election clerks.** The municipal officers, within 5 days of receiving

permission under this section, shall appoint election clerks to the additional voting places from the list of alternate clerks provided under section 532, subsection 2, paragraph C.

4. Notice. No later than 21 days prior to the election the clerk shall issue a public notice designating the location of the additional voting place. The notice shall designate the area of the voting district to be covered by the additional voting place.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Some municipalities who have experienced large fluctuations in voter turnout find that, during large turnouts, the number of polling places is insufficient. This bill would permit them to establish additional polling places, if permitted by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would base his determination on the prediction of voter turnout for the up coming election and the previous fluctuation in turnout in that municipality.