

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M  
R. G. S.

L.D. 880

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DATE: 3/22/96

(Filing No. H- 824 )

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M A J O R I T Y  
E D U C A T I O N A N D C U L T U R A L A F F A I R S

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10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of  
the House.

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S T A T E O F M A I N E  
H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S  
1 1 7 T H L E G I S L A T U R E  
S E C O N D R E G U L A R S E S S I O N

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 657, L.D. 880, Bill, "An  
Act Concerning Referendum Reform for School Budgets"

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

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'Resolve, Concerning Referendum Reform for School Budgets'

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Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the  
title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place  
the following:

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'Sec. 1. Committee review of alternative voting procedure.  
Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a  
study committee to review the status of the referendum method for  
adopting a budget within a school administrative district. The  
study committee must be broadly representative of statewide  
interests in this issue and consist of representatives from a  
statewide taxpayer group, the Maine School Management  
Association, the Maine Education Association, the State Board of  
Education, the Department of Education, the Maine School Boards  
Association, the Maine Municipal Association and other groups  
designated by the commissioner. The study committee shall review  
the use of the referendum method statewide, including the  
frequency of use, trends in adoption or rejection of the  
referendum method and any problems that may be emerging. The  
study committee shall present any recommendations to the joint  
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
education and cultural affairs by December 15, 1996.'

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**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

A. & S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 657, L.D. 880

2 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
statement of fact the following:

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**FISCAL NOTE**

8 The Department of Education will incur some minor additional  
costs to establish a study committee to review school budget  
10 voting procedures and to participate in that review. These costs  
can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted  
12 resources.'

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The bill would have restricted the use of the referendum  
18 method for adopting a school budget in a school administrative  
district to 3 referenda. If a final budget was not adopted after  
20 the 3rd referendum, the previous year's operating budget would  
have become the approved budget.

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This amendment is the majority report and replaces the  
24 bill. The amendment directs the Commissioner of Education to  
establish a study committee to review the status statewide of the  
26 referendum method of adopting a school budget. The study  
committee must consist of representatives of a wide variety of  
28 interested groups and organizations. The committee shall present  
any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the  
30 Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural  
affairs by December 15, 1996.