

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 991

S.P. 425

In Senate, March 11, 2025

### **An Act to Prevent Conflicts of Interest When Voting on Municipal Employee Compensation**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §611** is enacted to read:

3 **§611. Guidance to municipal clerks**

4 The Secretary of State shall produce and publicly disseminate guidance to municipal  
5 clerks for implementing the provisions of Title 30-A, section 2524, subsection 1-A; section  
6 2528, subsection 5, paragraph D; and section 2554, subsection 4. The guidance must  
7 provide instructions for:

8 **1. Disqualified voters.** Identifying municipal voters who are disqualified from voting  
9 on specific articles or referendum questions or city referendum questions pursuant to Title  
10 30-A, section 2524, subsection 1-A; section 2528, subsection 5, paragraph D; and section  
11 2554, subsection 4; and

12 **2. Prohibition on voting.** Ensuring that a municipal voter identified in accordance with  
13 paragraph A is not permitted to vote during a town meeting on an article or referendum  
14 question that the voter is disqualified from voting on pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2524,  
15 subsection 1-A; section 2528, subsection 5, paragraph D; and section 2554, subsection 4  
16 and is not given a ballot containing an article or referendum question that the voter is  
17 disqualified from voting on pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2524, subsection 1-A; section  
18 2528, subsection 5, paragraph D; and section 2554, subsection 4.

19 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2501, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 and  
20 Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

21 **2. Qualifications for voting.** The Except as provided in section 2524, subsection 1-A;  
22 section 2528, subsection 5, paragraph D; and section 2554, subsection 4, qualifications for  
23 voting in a municipal election conducted under this Title are governed solely by Title 21-A,  
24 section 111.

25 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §2524, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and  
26 Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further  
27 amended to read:

28 **1. Qualified voter; election of town officials.** Every Except as provided in subsection  
29 1-A, every voter in the town may vote in the election of all town officials and in all town  
30 affairs.

31 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §2524, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

32 **1-A. Disqualification based on direct pecuniary interest.** A voter who has a direct  
33 pecuniary interest in an article or referendum question may not vote on that article or  
34 referendum question at the town meeting or by secret ballot pursuant to section 2528. For  
35 purposes of this subsection, a voter has a direct pecuniary interest in an article or a  
36 referendum question that involves approving or ratifying or denying approval or ratification  
37 of a contract or a budget, including the school budget, directly affecting the compensation  
38 of the voter, including a budget that appropriates or deappropriates money in a way that  
39 changes the salary, hourly rate of compensation or employment benefits of the voter.

40 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§5, ¶D** is enacted to read:

41 **D.** The provisions of section 2524, subsection 1-A apply to any referendum question  
42 voted on by secret ballot.

