

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTYNINTH LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SESSION 1920

HOUSE

NO. 1

In the House, August 31, 1920.

Presented by Mr. Barnes of Houlton under suspension of joint rules.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY.

In House, August 31, 1920.

Presented by Mr. Barnes of Houlton under suspension of the rules.

AN ACT to Increase the Number of Election Clerks for Each
Polling Place.

Whereas, by the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proclaimed by the State Department of the United States on August 26th, 1920, the number of voters in each polling precinct of the State is great-

ly increased, and as a consequence the number of election officials should be immediately increased, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and additional legislation is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now therefore

It is enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. Section thirteen of Chapter seven of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended, by adding thereto the following words: "Provided, however, the municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations may, on or before the eleventh day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty, appoint two additional clerks for each polling place in cities, towns and plantations, and for each island ward of the city of Portland and for the island district of the town of Cumberland, who shall be sworn and shall assist the election officers in the several voting precincts of the State, and who shall serve until the next regular appointment of clerks for polling places as provided by law, and receive such compensation as is provided for clerks now serving," so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

"The municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations voting in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, shall biennially in the month of May appoint clerks for each polling place; and such municipal officers shall appoint as such clerk such persons as shall be recommended for such appointment by the several political party committees of

21 the several cities, towns or plantations, representing the two
22 political parties, which at the gubernatorial election next
23 preceding such appointment, cast the greatest number of
24 votes. For each polling place in cities and towns four
25 clerks, and for each polling place in plantations, and for
26 each island ward of the city of Portland, and for the island
27 district of the town of Cumberland two clerks shall be ap-
28 pointed. Said clerks shall equally represent each of the po-
29 litical parties which cast the largest number of votes in the
30 State election next preceding their appointment. Each of
31 said clerks shall be sworn to the faithful performance of
32 his duties, and shall hold office for two years from the date
33 of his appointment, and until a successor is appointed, and
34 qualified, or he vacates the office. Vacancies occurring in
35 the office of election or ballot clerks, shall be forthwith
36 filled by the municipal officers in towns and plantations and
37 by the mayors of cities in manner hereinbefore provided.
38 Such election clerks shall attend at the times and places
39 designated for meetings in their respective wards, towns or
40 plantations for the election of any national, state, county,
41 city or ward officers, and for the determination of any
42 question submitted to the qualified voters of any city by
43 lawful authority, shall be present at and assist in the count-
44 ing by the presiding election officer or officers of all votes
45 cast in such meetings, and shall receive such reasonable
46 compensation for each day's actual service as the municipal
47 officers of their respective cities, towns and plantations may

48 determine. And on the recommendation of the political
49 party committee of any other party represented on the of-
50 ficial ballot, said municipal officers shall appoint one such
51 election clerk in each polling place, for such political party,
52 who shall be qualified for the performance of his duties, in
53 like manner as the clerks of the two beforementioned par-
54 ties, shall hold office for a like term, or for such part there-
55 of as the party for which he is appointed maintain its right
56 to be represented upon the official ballot, and who during
57 said term shall have like rights and duties, with the before-
58 mentioned clerks to be present at and assist in the counting
59 of votes, and shall serve with or without compensation as
60 the municipal officers in any case may deem advisable, va-
61 cancies occurring in case of said clerks to be filed as in
62 case of other clerks herein mentioned. No person shall be
63 eligible to the position of election clerk in any ward, town
64 or plantation where he is a candidate to be voted for. Two
65 of the clerks in each polling place, one from each political
66 party, shall be detailed by the municipal officers to act as
67 ballot clerks. The two ballot clerks thus detailed and ap-
68 pointed in each polling place shall have the charge of the
69 ballots therein and shall furnish them to the voters in the
70 manner hereinafter set forth. A duplicate list of the quali-
71 fied voters in each ward, town or plantation shall be pre-
72 pared for the use of the ballot clerks, and all the provisions

73 of law relative to the preparation, furnishing and preserva-
74 tion of check lists shall apply to such duplicate lists. Pro-
75 visions in the charter of any city for the election of two
76 persons to assist the warden in receiving, sorting and count-
77 ing the ballots are not affected by the provisions hereof;
78 but persons so elected shall be deemed election clerks for
79 that purpose; they shall equally represent the two political
80 parties which at the State election next preceding cast the
81 greatest number of votes. Provided, however, the muni-
82 cipal officers of cities, town and plantation may, on or be-
83 fore the eleventh day of September, nineteen hundred and
84 twenty, appoint two additional clerks for each polling place
85 in cities, towns and plantations, and for each island ward
86 of the city of Portland and for the island district of the
87 town of Cumberland, who shall be sworn and shall assist
88 the election officers in the several voting precincts of the
89 State and who shall serve until the next regular appoint-
90 ment of clerks for polling places as provided by law, and
91 receive such compensation as is provided for clerks now
92 serving.

Sect. 2. In view of the emergency expressed in the pre-
2 amble this Act shall take effect when approved.