

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPECIAL SESSION

E I G H T Y - E I G H T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1084

S. P. 544

In Senate, October 27, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed.
Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Beckett of Washington.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Provide for the Surrender by Town of Edmunds of Its
Organization.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the town of Edmunds is unable to fulfill its obligations as a town any longer, and

Whereas, unless provisions for its immediate deorganization are made, the town will not be able to meet its obligations, and

Whereas, it is necessary to provide for proper care of the poor of said town and proper education for its children, and

Whereas, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Organization of town of Edmunds may be surrendered. The organization of the town of Edmunds in the county of Washington as heretofore adopted is hereby surrendered; provided, however, that the corporate existence, powers, duties and liabilities of said town shall survive for the purpose of prosecuting and defending all pending suits and

causes of suits to which said town is, or may be, a party and all needful process growing out of the same, including provisions for the payment of all or any judgments or debts which may be rendered against such town or exist in favor of any creditor.

Sec. 2. School fund and unexpended funds. The school fund deposited to the credit of said town and all funds unexpended for school purposes, at the time when this act becomes effective, out of amounts raised by said town for school purposes or out of amounts paid by the state for school purposes shall be paid by the treasurer of said town or such other person in whose custody such funds may be, to the treasurer of state. Such amounts, so received, shall be added to the unorganized township funds as provided in section 23 of chapter 11 of the revised statutes.

Sec. 3. Referendum. This act shall take effect immediately after its approval by the governor for the purpose of permitting its acceptance or rejection by the legal voters of the town of Edmunds at any special town meeting legally called for the acceptance of this act before January 1, 1938; an appropriate article being inserted in the call for said meeting.

If a majority of the qualified voters of the town, present and voting, vote in acceptance of this act it shall become operative on January 1, 1938. A certificate of such vote shall be filed by the town clerk with the secretary of state.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Edmunds' 1930 population was 394 and the valuation around \$120,000; today the actual population is just in excess of 300 and the town carries its valuation at \$67,500. There are no heavy outstanding obligations. The difficulty seems to be that the Government is taking over some 7000 acres as a recreational area on which they will receive no taxes next year. They also have around 9000 acres owned by the Dead River Lumber Company which has been cut over, and which Company intends to let go for taxes all except about 700 acres. This means that actually the town is faced with a further shrinkage in valuation of about \$20,000 to \$25,000. In addition to this they have a Poor Account which costs them about \$1800 a year and are paying \$60 per pupil High School tuition on 31 students. They see absolutely no way of helping themselves and want to take this step in re-organization before they are hopelessly in debt.