MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 346

S. P. 118

Referred to Committee on Municipal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Boardman of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE

AN ACT to Amend the Charter of the City of Calais to Provide for the Acquisition of a Water System by the City of Calais.

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

P. & S. L., 1947, c. 172, Article I, § 2, additional. Article I of chapter 172 of the private and special laws of 1947 is amended by adding a new section 2, to read as follows:

'Sec. 2. Acquisition and maintenance of public water system authorized. The City of Calais is authorized to acquire, construct, improve, operate, manage and maintain a public water system for the purpose of providing the residents of Calais with pure water for domestic, sanitary, commercial and municipal purposes. Nothing herein shall be construed to grant the City of Calais the right to operate a public water system within said city so long as a private water company is authorized to serve the inhabitants of the City of Calais by the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine, the purpose of this section being to provide specific authorization for the city's use only if no private company nor any water district or other quasi-public corporate entity is so authorized. Any such water system so acquired or constructed by the city under these provisions shall be operated as a department of the city government under the supervision of the city manager and the city is further authorized to raise and appropriate necessary funds for these purposes by any of the lawful methods provided in the Revised Statutes of 1954, chapter 90-A, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 405 of the public laws of 1957. The city is further authorized to purchase from any private water company serving its inhabitants the entire facilities of said private water company and to assume any associated contractual obligations, including, among other things, contracts for the purpose of water for use in the system.'

Referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State. This act shall take effect 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters of the City of Calais at any regular or special election called and held for the purpose within 2 years after the effective date of this act. Such special election shall be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections; provided that the board of registration in the City of Calais shall not be required to prepare for posting, nor the city clerk to post, a new list of voters; and for the purpose of registration of voters said board shall be in session the 3 secular days next preceding such election, the first 2 days thereof to be devoted to the registration of voters and the last day to enable the board to verify the corrections of said lists and to complete and close up its records of said sessions. A check list shall be used at such election.

The city clerk shall prepare the required ballots, on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this act to the following question: "Shall the Act to Amend the Charter of the City of Calais to Provide for the Acquisition of a Water System by the City of Calais, passed by the 101st Legislature, be accepted?" The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same.

This act shall take effect for all purposes hereof immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters voting at such election; but only if the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this act at said election equals or exceeds 20% of the total vote for all candidates for Governor cast in said city at the next previous gubernatorial election.

The result of such election shall be declared by the municipal officers of the City of Calais and due certificate thereof shall be filed by the city clerk with the Secretary of State.