

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 756

S. P. 249

In Senate, February 11, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Chick of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Representation of Boards of School Directors.

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

R. S., T. 20, § 301, amended. Section 301 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 100 of the public laws of 1965, is further amended by adding 2 new paragraphs at the end to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Title, each director in a School Administrative District shall represent approximately the same number of inhabitants. In no case shall the number of inhabitants represented by one director exceed by more than 10% the number of inhabitants represented by another director in the same district. Existing School Administrative Districts may comply with these provisions by establishing wards of approximately equal population, or by combining small municipalities within a district to form wards, or by nominating the directors from each municipality as at present and electing all directors in the district at large. The board of directors and the municipal officers of the member municipalities shall meet when called by the chairman of the board of school directors after receiving a notice which shall be given at least 7 days in advance of the meeting to determine the method of complying with the one-man, one-vote principle. The method of representation shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. A return shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education on forms supplied by him indicating the method of compliance. If any district fails to take appropriate action, the commissioner shall have the authority to call a meeting at the local level to establish representation in compliance with this paragraph.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the board of directors shall establish polling places for election of school directors and shall conduct

such elections on the 4th Monday in January whenever vacancies on the board exist. All terms for all members of the board of directors shall begin upon the election on the 4th Monday and regular terms shall end on the same date. The secretary of the School Administrative District shall furnish the necessary nomination papers for candidates who wish to seek election to the board of directors. Each nomination paper must contain a number of signatures equal to at least 10% of the voters voting in the last gubernatorial election or 50 signatures, whichever is less. The secretary of the School Administrative District shall maintain a voting list for each of the wards established and shall add registered voters to the list during regular business hours up until 5 p. m. on the last business day preceding the date of election.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this Act is to bring Maine statutes into line with the Supreme Court's ruling relating to representation of public boards, specifically referring to the one-man, one-vote principle.