

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 385

S. P. 151

In Senate, January 30, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shute of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing for Field Examiner for Election Division of the
Department of the Secretary of State

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, § 81-A, additional. Title 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 81-A to read as follows:

§ 81-A. Field examiner

The Secretary of State, subject to the Personnel Law, may appoint a field examiner for the Election Division of the Department of the Secretary of State, whose duties shall consist primarily of instructing and assisting municipal election officials in relation to their administration of provisions of Title 21 and shall include the training of municipal election officials prior to primary and general elections within the State.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of the Secretary of State the sum of \$33,975 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF		
Election Division		
Personal Services	(2) \$ 9,450	(2) \$12,600
All Other	5,650	5,650
Capital Expenditures	625	
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	\$15,725	\$18,250

STATEMENT OF FACT

There is dramatic evidence that the administrative election process in the State of Maine is sorely in need of immediate attention. For example, municipal election officials this past year acknowledge the existence of grossly outdated voting lists. Moreover, numerous statutory provisions of the election laws are not being adhered to for many reasons, including ignorance of the laws or inexperience in the application of the laws.

The Election Division of the office of the Secretary of State is comprised only of a deputy and one clerk-stenographer, the deputy also serving as Deputy Secretary of State with secondary responsibilities for the Corporation and Motor Vehicle Divisions.

The Special Interim Committee to Review Election Laws, appointed by the Secretary of State in 1972, has recommended as essential the addition of a field examiner to (1) provide instructions relative to the application of election laws, and (2) conduct schools of instruction for election officials on either area or county-wide basis.