

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1684

H. P. 1298

House of Representatives, March 29, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. McMahon of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide for Secret Ballot by Alternative Means at Town Meetings.

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

R. S., T. 30, § 2061, sub-§ 4, amended. Subsection 4 of section 2061 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

4. **Referendum questions.** By order of the municipal officers or ~~On~~ on the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the ~~selectmen~~ municipal officers shall require that a particular article be placed in the next ballot printed, or shall call a special town meeting for its consideration. ~~If such particular article be placed in the next ballot printed,~~ **A** public hearing shall be held by the municipal officers on the subject of such article at least 10 days before the day for voting thereon. Notice of such public hearing shall be given by the municipal officers by causing a copy of said proposed article together with the time and place of hearing, to be posted in the same manner required for posting a warrant for a town meeting, at least 7 days before the date set for such hearing, and a return shall be made on the original notice by the municipal officers stating the manner of notice and the time when it was given. The requirement for public hearing shall not be a prerequisite to the valid issuance of any bond, note or other obligation of a municipality authorized to borrow money by vote under any such particular article. The petition or order for placing an article on the ballot is subject to the same filing provisions as are nomination papers under this section. A vote by secret ballot takes precedence over a vote by any other means at the same meeting.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow selectmen to designate the use of a secret ballot without the necessity of having a petition.