

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1811

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H. P. 1278

House of Representatives, April 2, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Regional Technical Vocational Centers and the  
Vocational Education Regions.**

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 2351-A is enacted to read:

§ 2351-A. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings:

1. Vocational center. A "vocational center" is comprised of a regional technical-vocational center which is located in a particular community and is governed by the school board within that community;

2. Vocational region. A "vocational region" is comprised of all communities within the geographical bounds of that region as was determined by the Legislature. Such regions are governed by a cooperative board with membership from the various municipalities.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 2356, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 571, § 71, is further amended to read:

§ 2356. Powers and duties of state board

For the purposes of this section and sections 57 and 2355, the state board shall have power to accept and expend all funds received by it from the department on appropriation from the General Fund of the State or from such gifts and donations either from public or private sources as may be offered unconditionally, together with fees as provided. The said board shall have

authority to offer such courses of study, give such diploma or certificate on completion of a course of study, charge such tuition and other reasonable fees and set up such qualifications for admission as it deems necessary in any such technical and vocational schools, and schools for practical nursing, and in addition the board may confer associate degrees at the state vocational-technical institutes based upon 2 years of instruction with such equipment and facilities as will safeguard the integrity of the degrees conferred.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 2356-A, sub-§ 4, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 673, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

4. **Satellite centers.** The State Board of Education may approve satellite vocational programs as a part of a regional technical-vocational center already in operation when the regional technical-vocational center makes such a request and supplies detailed information fully justifying the need for a vocational education program in a satellite center. All requests made by local school committees or boards of directors for satellite vocational education programs shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education with the recommendation of the school committee or board of directors operating a regional technical-vocational center and the commissioner. The local school committee or board of directors responsible for operating the satellite vocational education program shall assume full financial responsibility for paying the operating costs of the satellite program and shall receive state subsidy for the program and tuition income from administrative units using that particular satellite program.

The school committee or board of directors, where the satellite vocational education program is operated, shall furnish the necessary facilities and equipment and shall be eligible for school construction aid for the vocational education space where the satellite vocational education program is located, if new facilities are required and are approved.

Personnel to operate the satellite vocational education program shall be nominated by the superintendent of schools operating the satellite vocational education program, in consultation with the director of the regional technical-vocational center and shall be approved by the school committee or board of directors where the program is located. Personnel working in satellite vocational education programs shall be supervised by the director of the regional technical-vocational center, who shall make recommendations to the local superintendents of schools.

The State Board of Education shall approve satellite centers in conjunction with existing regional technical-vocational centers, such satellite centers to be financed through available funds.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 2356-A, sub-§ 5, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 783, § 23, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

5. **Advisory committees.** There shall be an advisory committee responsible for coordinating vocational education in any vocational education center operating as of 1972. Membership on the advisory committee shall consist of the superintendent of schools of the participating high schools or his

representative and one board member chosen from each school committee or board of directors by its membership. The advisory committee shall meet on a quarterly basis. This committee will be responsible for preparing and submitting an annual report on the regional or satellite centers, or both, to the State Board of Education and each town served by the satellite center.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 2356-A, sub-§§ 6 and 7 are enacted to read:

6. Local director of technical and vocational education. Whenever an application for approval of a regional technical and vocational center is made to the State Board of Education as is provided in this section, the administrative unit making such an application shall include in its plan for the establishment, maintenance and operation of such proposed center, provision for the employment on the staff of the center of a local director of technical and vocational education who shall meet such qualifications as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education for all such positions, and the unit shall employ such a director as a condition of continued approval of the center. The director shall be responsible to the appropriate administrative officers of the administrative school unit operating the center.

7. Transportation. Transportation shall be provided by the sending units in the 14 existing regional centers and for any satellite programs which may subsequently be adopted.

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA § 2356-B, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 783, § 24, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2356-B. State aid

1. Grants. The cost of constructing and equipping, subsequent to September 3, 1965, a building or buildings to be used for the maintenance and operation of a regional technical and vocational center, which is approved in accordance with section 2356-A, shall be reimbursed to the unit in accordance with sections 3457 to 3460.

As used in this section, cost of construction shall consist of the same items as are eligible for construction assistance to School Administrative Districts in accordance with sections 3457, 3458 and 3459 and the grants provided in this section shall be paid at such times and in such installments as are provided for in sections 3457, 3458, 3459 and 3460. The commissioner may authorize grants for construction assistance provided by this section, including grants for equipping or for the completing of the equipping of a facility already available, which shall be in lieu of any construction assistance for the same facility made or authorized under sections 3457, 3458 and 3459, and shall be made only on the basis of information available in the office of the commissioner on November 1st and May 1st of each year covering expenditures made by the administrative unit as reported by its superintendent of schools to the commissioner on forms which he shall provide for the purpose or in the alternative as provided by section 3460.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, no assistance for construction shall be paid until after the superintendent of schools of the administrative unit applying therefor shall certify to the commissioner, on forms provided by him,

that the building has been completed in accordance with the requirements of section 3623 and that the building will be used forthwith for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a regional technical and vocational center which, prior to the commencement of construction, has been approved in accordance with section 2356-A. Whenever such a certificate has been filed, the commissioner, at the next annual distribution of assistance under this section, shall pay such grants as may be payable on the basis of expenditures made by the administrative unit in its preceding fiscal year together with such grants, covering eligible expenditures on the building made in previous fiscal years, as would have been payable to the unit except for the prohibition imposed by this section against payment of construction assistance until after the completion of the building. This paragraph shall apply only if state payments are made in accordance with sections 3457, 3458 and 3459.

Any administrative unit which has received approval of a plan for a regional technical and vocational center and thereafter receives assistance under this section in the construction and equipping, or in the equipping alone, of a facility for the maintenance and operation of a regional technical and vocational center shall maintain and operate such regional center continuously for a period of not less than 10 years from the date of the first grant of assistance for such construction and equipping unless the approved plan for the maintenance and operation of the center has been revoked by the State Board of Education within that time. If, for reasons beyond the control of the administrative unit receiving construction assistance, the unit is unable to fulfill its requirement that the center be operated for such period of 10 years, the State Board of Education is authorized to waive this requirement or to modify it to such extent as in its judgment the circumstances warrant. In the event such administrative unit fails to maintain and operate the facility as a regional technical and vocational center for at least the prescribed 10-year period, the amounts of any grants of assistance on construction and for equipping the center, which previously have been paid to the administrative unit, shall be recovered by deducting the amounts so paid from any apportionments of educational aid then or thereafter payable to the unit. If the amount to be recovered is of such size that deduction thereof in any year or years from other grants of educational aid would have, in the judgment of the State Board of Education, an adverse effect upon the public elementary and secondary program of instruction offered by the administrative unit, the State Board of Education is authorized to approve such a schedule of periodic deductions from apportionments of educational aid as will permit the recovery of the construction and equipping assistance grants without prejudice to the public elementary and secondary program offered by the unit. In the event that such deductions would adversely affect any payments due the Maine School Building Authority then such deductions shall be adjusted or deferred until they can be made without such adverse effect.

2. **Costs of instruction.** The excess cost of instruction as defined in section 3712 in approved technical and vocational classes maintained on the secondary level through grade 12 shall be reimbursed. Ninety percent of the costs of instruction for approved part-time and evening classes for out-of-school youth and adults shall be reimbursed. Costs of instruction for tech-

nical and vocational classes on the secondary school level shall be construed to mean the expenditures chargeable to such classes made for teachers' salaries, fuel, janitorial services, textbooks, reference books, school supplies for desk, laboratory and shop use, public utility services, replacement of instructional equipment, fire insurance and compensation for director and his assistants for the technical and vocational center.

Costs of instruction for part-time and evening classes shall be limited to the costs of instructors' and supervisors' salaries, janitor services, public utility services, textbooks, if furnished free to students, reference books and consumable supplies for classroom, shop or laboratory use, but such costs shall be reduced by any receipts from tuition charges for persons enrolled, whether residents of the unit maintaining and operating the center or of other administrative units and whether or not these tuition charges are paid by the student personally or by the administrative unit where he resides.

Sec. 7. 20 MRSA § 2356-C, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 440, § 14-A, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2356-C. Tuition charges to be paid by sending administrative unit or community school district; legal rate; time to be paid; method of settlement of unpaid tuition charges

Any administrative unit operating an approved regional technical and vocational center may charge tuition for students attending the center in the secondary grades who are residents of other administrative units in the area served by the center or who are otherwise eligible to attend under section 1291. Such tuition charges shall be paid by the school committee or board of school directors of the sending administrative unit or by the school committee of a secondary community school district of which the sending unit is a member. Tuition charges billed to sending administrative units or to secondary community school districts shall be due at such times and the same penalties for nonpayment of tuition charges shall apply as are provided under section 1292 for the tuition charges for regular secondary education.

The tuition charge per student is to be determined as follows: The per pupil cost is determined by adding the amounts paid for teachers' salaries, fuel, janitorial services, textbooks, reference books, school supplies or desk and laboratory use, public utility services, replacement of instructional equipment, fire insurance and compensation for the director of vocational education and his assistants, and adjusting these amounts by the allowable percentages set forth in section 1292 and dividing this sum by the average daily membership of all regularly enrolled students in the technical and vocational education center.

When the cost of fuel, janitorial services, public utility services or insurance for the technical and vocational education facilities cannot be separated from similar costs for other facilities, the cost of such items for the center will be prorated on the basis of the square footage of floor space in the technical and vocational education section or sections in relation to the total floor space to which such expenditures apply.

Sec. 8. 20 MRSA § 2356-E, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 571, § 71, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2356-E. Operation of vocational and technical courses on grade 13 and 14 levels; tuition for such courses charged to students enrolled

Vocational and technical courses on grade 13 and 14 levels may be operated in regional technical and vocational centers when approved by the State Board of Education and, when so operated, tuition charges for these courses at rates approved by the State Board of Education may be charged directly to the students enrolled.

Sec. 9. 20 MRSA § 2356-F, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 440, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2356-F. Persons entitled to attend regional technical and vocational centers

Any person entitled to receive free public education in the secondary grades, any person seeking to attend full-time programs in grade levels 13 and 14, where offered, and any adult or out-of-school youth seeking to attend part-time or evening programs, where offered, whether such courses are free or are subject to payment of tuition charges either by the prospective student or by the administrative unit where he resides, if such unit is authorized to pay them in accordance with section 2356-C, may attend any regional technical and vocational center established under sections 2356-A to 2356-G which serves his area, as defined in section 2356-A, provided that those in charge of the regional center determine, by the same standards applying in the case of all students for admission to the programs, including those students resident in the administrative unit maintaining and operating the center, that he is qualified to profit by the instruction and that the school can accommodate him.

Sec. 10. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 571, § 71, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2356-G. Vocational regions

There are created vocational regions for vocational education whose boundaries are set forth in this section. The vocational regions are created to deliver vocational education to their respective areas in accordance with sections 2356-B to 2356-H.

1. Designated regions. For the purpose of this section, the regions for vocational education are established as follows:

Region 1. NORTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Madawaska; S.A.D. No. 10—Allagash; S.A.D. No. 24—Van Buren, Cyr Plt., Grand Isle and Hamlin Plt.; S.A.D. No. 27—Eagle Lake, Fort Kent, New Canada Plt., St. Francis Plt., St. John Plt., Wallagrass Plt. and Winterville Plt., S.A.D. No. 33—Frenchville and Saint Agatha.

Region 2. SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Bancroft; Benedicta; Crystal; Dyer Brook; Hersey; Island

Falls; Linneus; Ludlow; Merrill; Moro Pt.; New Limerick; Oakfield; Orient; Smyrna; S.A.D. No. 14—Danforth and Weston; S.A.D. No. 25—Mt. Chase Pt., Patten, Sherman and Stacyville; S.A.D. No. 29—Hammond Pt., Houlton, Littleton and Monticello; S.A.D. No. 70—Amity, Cary Pt., Haynesville and Hodgdon.

Region 3. NORTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Carroll Pt.; Codyville; Drew Pt.; East Millinocket; Glenwood Pt.; Lakeville Pt.; Macwahoc Pt.; Medway; Millinocket; Reed Pt., Topsfield; Vanceboro; Woodville; S.A.D. No. 30—Lee, Prentiss Pt., Springfield, Webster Pt. and Winn; S.A.D. No. 31—Burlington, Edinburg, Enfield, Howland, Lowell, Maxfield, Passadamkeag and Seboeis Pt.; S.A.D. No. 67—Chester, Lincoln and Mattawamkeag.

Region 4. SOUTHERN PENOBSCOT COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Alton; Amherst; Aurora; Bangor; Bradley; Brewer; Dedham; Glenburn; Grand Falls Pt.; Great Pond Pt.; Greenbush; Greenfield; Hermon; Milford; Old Town; Orono; Orrington; Osborn Pt.; Veazie; S.A.D. No. 22—Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport; S.A.D. No. 23—Carmel and Levant; S.A.D. No. 38—Dixmont and Etna; S.A.D. No. 63—Clifton, Eddington and Holden; S.A.D. No. 64—Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, Kenduskeag and Stetson.

Region 5. HANCOCK COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Bar Harbor; Blue Hill; Bucksport; Castine; Cranberry Isles; Ellsworth; Franklin; Gouldsboro; Hancock; Lamoine; Long Island Pt.; Mariaville; Mt. Desert; Orland; Otis; Penobscot; Sorrento; Southwest Harbor; Steuben; Sullivan; Surry; Tremont; Trenton; Winter Harbor; S.A.D. No. 18—Prospect and Verona; S.A.D. No. 26—Eastbrook and Waltham; Brooklin, Brooksville, Deer Isle, Sedgwick and Stonington; S.A.D. No. 76—Swan's Island.

Region 6. WASHINGTON COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Alexander; Baileyville; Baring Pt.; Beals; Beddington; Calais; Centerville; Charlotte; Cooper; Crawford; Deblois; Dennysville; Eastport; Grand Lake Stream Pt.; Jonesboro; Jonesport; Machias; Marshfield; Meddybemps; Northfield; No. 14 Pt.; No. 21 Pt.; Pembroke; Perry; Princeton; Robbinston; Roque Bluffs; Talmadge; Waite; Wesley; Whitneyville; S.A.D. No. 37—Addison, Cherryfield, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington and Milbridge; S.A.D. No. 19—Lubec; S.A.D. No. 77—Cutler, East Machias, Machiasport and Whiting.

Region 7. WALDO COUNTY. Units located in this area are: S.A.D. No. 3—Brooks, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Thorn-dike, Troy, Unity and Waldo; S.A.D. No. 34—Belfast, Belmont, Morrill, Northport, Searsmont and Swanville; S.A.D. No. 56—Frankfort, Searsport and Stockton Springs.

Region 8. KNOX COUNTY. Units located in this area are: Appleton; Hope; Islesboro; Lincolnville; S.A.D. No. 5—Owls Head, Rockland and South Thomaston; S.A.D. No. 7—North Haven; S.A.D. No. 8—Vinalhaven; S.A.D. No. 28—Camden and Rockport; S.A.D. No. 40—Friendship, Union, Waldoboro, Warren and Washington; S.A.D. No. 50—Cushing, St. George and Thomaston.



Region 9. **NORTHERN OXFORD COUNTY.** Units located in this area are: Hanover; Peru; Rumford; S.A.D. No. 21—Canton, Carthage and Dixfield; S.A.D. No. 43—Byron, Mexico and Roxbury; S.A.D. No. 44—Andover, Bethel, Greenwood, Newry and Woodstock.

Region 10. **EASTERN CUMBERLAND-SAGADAHOC COUNTY.** Units located in this area are: Brunswick, Freeport; S.A.D. No. 62—Pownal; S.A.D. No. 75—Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. This region will coordinate programs and activities with the Regional Technical and Vocational Center at Bath.

Region 11. **SOUTHERN OXFORD COUNTY.** Units located in this area are: S.A.D. No. 17—Harrison, Hebron, Norway, Otisfield, Oxford, Paris, Waterford and West Paris; S.A.D. No. 39—Buckfield, Hartford and Sumner. This region will coordinate programs and activities with the Regional Technical and Vocational Center at Bridgton.

**CENTRAL AROOSTOOK COUNTY.** High schools in this area are located at: Ashland, Caribou, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Limestone, Mars Hill, Presque Isle and Washburn. These high schools in the Central Aroostook County area will be served by regional technical and vocational centers located in Presque Isle and Caribou. These 2 regional centers shall be governed by their respective school boards but shall have an advisory committee responsible for coordinating vocational education for the Central Aroostook County area. Membership on the advisory committee shall consist of the superintendents of schools of the participating towns with high schools and one board member chosen from each school committee or board of directors by its membership. The advisory committee shall meet quarterly and also will be responsible for preparing and submitting an annual report on vocational education to the State Board of Education and to each unit within the region.

Each vocational region authorized and organized under the public laws of 1973, chapter 605, is hereby validated, confirmed, approved and declared legal in all respects, notwithstanding any defect or irregularity which may have occurred in the organization of the region and in the selection of the cooperative board of that region.

The boundaries of the 11 regions shall not be changed except by action of the Legislature, provided that any unit contracting for secondary education outside of its region shall become a part of the region where such a contract exists.

2. Program approval. The State Board of Education shall approve vocational programs in the 11 regions as funding becomes available based upon plans submitted by the cooperative boards of the 11 vocational regions.

3. Organization, cooperative boards — size, membership, appointment, meetings, method of sharing costs. The vocational regions shall be administered by a cooperative board as set forth herein. The size of the cooperative board, the number to serve on the cooperative board from each unit or group of units, appointment of the membership within the units and the method of sharing costs shall be determined by a majority vote of the

school committees or board of directors, or both, of the various units at a joint meeting called for this purpose by the commissioner. The municipal officers of each unit within the region shall be invited to the joint meeting and shall be heard on the issues of cooperative board membership and the methods of sharing costs among the units. The members of the school committee or board of directors of each unit shall caucus with the municipal officers within that unit and each member of a school committee or board of directors shall cast his vote on the issues in accordance with the majority vote of the caucus for that unit. Several small units may be jointly represented by a cooperative board member.

The details of establishing the cooperative board and the method of sharing costs shall be determined by a majority vote of the board members present and voting at the meeting which has been called by the commissioner. Decisions reached on the method of sharing costs and the representation on the cooperative board may be appealed to the State Board of Education by any administrative unit within the region, if the school committee or the board of directors of that unit believes that the representation on the cooperative board or the method of sharing costs is unfair to the local administrative unit. The State Board of Education shall make a determination on the disposition of the appeal. The board's decision shall be final and binding upon the administrative units within the vocational region.

When the member units of a cooperative board have determined the representation and the method of sharing costs, the school committees or boards of directors, or both, of the member units shall meet forthwith on the call of the superintendents of schools to select the members who will serve on the cooperative board. Membership of the cooperative board shall be made up from any citizen in the administrative units in that area in proportion to the population of those administrative units, except that those citizens who by holding another office have duties conflicting with those of the cooperative board shall not be selected. The cooperative board members shall meet upon the call of the superintendents of schools in the region and shall organize by electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and adopting a constitution or bylaws, or both, for the calling of and conducting of cooperative board meetings. The cooperative board shall select a treasurer who shall give a bond to the board in such sum and with such sureties as the board may determine, which bond shall be deposited with the chairman. Neither the secretary nor the treasurer need be a member of the cooperative board. The expenses of such bonds shall be paid by the cooperative board.

The secretary of the cooperative board shall forthwith file a return with the State Board of Education setting forth the names of the officers of the cooperative board of the vocational region and certifying that the cooperative board has been properly organized. The State Board of Education is authorized to issue a certificate of organization or reorganization for each of the vocational regions so organized and the issuance of such a certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful organization of the vocational region. The original certificate so issued shall be kept on file by the secretary of each region and copies shall be placed on file in the office of the commissioner. Each vocational region is declared to be a quasi-municipal cor-

poration within the meaning of Title 30, section 5053, and all the provisions of said section shall be applicable thereto.

Vocational regions, as designated by the Legislature, may vote on articles submitted by the cooperative board using the procedures set forth in section 225.

4. Cooperative boards, authority, duties, compensation. The cooperative boards of the 11 regions for vocational education as set forth in this section shall have all the rights and duties that are set forth in sections 309, 309-A and 309-B.

The cooperative board is authorized to borrow funds in anticipation of each member unit's payment of the unit's share of the vocational regional budget. Such borrowing must be repaid within one year and such loans may not at any one time exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the budget submitted by the cooperative board for approval of the member units of the region.

Cooperative board members may be paid up to \$10 for each meeting attended.

The cooperative board, with the advice of the superintendents' advisory committee, shall have the authority to prepare a cooperative agreement on how vocational education will be administered in each region, and shall have the right to amend such agreement. The cooperative board shall employ a vocational administrator who shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the cooperative board.

5. Superintendents' advisory committee. The superintendents of schools within each region shall serve as an advisory committee to the cooperative board.

The superintendents' advisory committee shall be invited and shall receive notice of all meetings held by the cooperative board.

The vocational administrator shall meet with the superintendents' advisory committee at least 4 times each year to review proposed programs, budgets and issues relating to vocational education.

6. Budget procedure. These 11 regions for vocational education, as designated, agree to appropriate the necessary local funds, in accordance with the agreed-upon method of sharing costs, to pay the operating and construction costs for the regional programs for vocational education as may be required by sections 2356-A to 2356-H. The State Board of Education shall pay construction subsidies in accordance with section 2356-B, subsection 1.

The annual budget as approved by the cooperative board shall be submitted to the legislative body of each unit within the region in the form of an article in the budget meeting warrant or by an order in a city council. The question shall be in the following form:

Shall the regional vocational budget as approved by the cooperative board for the year        be approved in the amount of \$                ?

Each unit's share of the annual budget as finally approved by the cooperative board shall be placed in the local school budget and said unit's share shall not be subject to amendment. Initial costs for starting new vocational educational education programs may be financed by a local tax outside the uniform tax and outside of any additional appropriations now authorized in section 3713.

The vote of the legislative body shall be to accept or reject the budget. No portion thereof may be amended. Following the annual budget meeting of each unit, the clerk of each unit shall notify, in writing, the member or members of the cooperative board which represent that unit of the results of the vote. Within 5 days after the last unit has acted on the budget, the chairman of the cooperative board shall call a meeting of the board to tally the results of the vote. The cooperative board members shall report in writing and each shall cast his ballot in the affirmative or in the negative in accordance with the majority vote of the unit or units represented. The chairman shall add the votes thus reported, and the cooperative board shall make a finding of fact and enter in its records the total vote in the affirmative and the total vote in the negative. If the total vote in the affirmative exceeds the total vote in the negative, the cooperative board shall declare that the budget has been approved by the voters of the region.

A vote on the budget of the vocational region must be completed on or before April 1st of each year. If the budget fails of passage, the cooperative board shall prepare a new budget and shall submit it to a budget meeting of the vocational region called in the manner set forth below:

A. Warrant. Each regional meeting shall be called by a warrant. The warrant shall be signed by a majority of the cooperative board membership.

- (1) It shall specify the time and place of the meeting.
- (2) It shall be directed to any resident living within the vocational region by name ordering him to notify all voters within the region to assemble at the time and place appointed.
- (3) An attested copy of the warrant shall be posted by the person to whom it is directed in some conspicuous public place in each of the municipalities within the vocational region at least 7 days before the meeting.
- (4) The person who gives notice of the meeting shall make his return on the warrant stating the manner of notice in each municipality and the time when it was given.
- (5) The warrant for calling the budget meeting of the vocational region shall include such articles as the cooperative board deems necessary to place before the voters for their consideration the vocational programs and the authorization to expend funds of the region for the fiscal year. A detailed supportive budget document shall be available to the legislative body which has responsibility for final budget approval. The supportive document shall contain a summary of anticipated revenues and estimated

expenditures for the fiscal year. Any budget adopted under this section prior to the effective date of this Act shall be validated, approved and declared legal.

**B. Meeting procedure.**

(1) The cooperative board shall appoint a resident of the region to make and keep a voting list of all residents in the region eligible to vote. This person shall be known as the registration clerk. The registration clerk shall compile the voting list from the voting lists of all the municipalities lying within the region. The town or city clerk shall deliver to the vocational region registration clerk, 5 business days prior to the regional district budget meeting, a certified corrected copy of the voting list of the member municipality. No additions or deletions shall be made during the 5 business days prior to said meeting and only those citizens whose names appear on the voting list may vote on the budget presented by the cooperative board.

(2) The chairman of the cooperative board, or in his absence his designee, shall open the budget meeting by calling for the election of a moderator, receiving and counting votes for the moderator and swearing in the moderator.

(3) As soon as he has been elected and sworn, the moderator shall preside at the meeting and the annual budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of those present and voting. The moderator shall appoint from the certified voting lists such ballot clerks as he deems necessary for the efficient operation of the meeting. Such ballot clerks shall be sworn by the moderator.

(4) The secretary of the cooperative board, or in his absence his designee, shall record accurately all the votes of the regional meeting.

(5) The cooperative board shall, forthwith upon the adoption of a budget, compute the share to be paid by each municipality within the region and shall notify the school officials to include said share in the administrative unit's annual school budget.

(6) The school officials shall place on the school payroll for payment the first of each month a sum equivalent to 1/12 of the municipality's share of the cooperative school budget as adopted.

Any new grants from state or federal sources received by the regional cooperative board shall be deducted from the gross budget before making the assessments to the individual towns within the region.

The actions of the cooperative boards of the vocational regions as organized under the public laws of 1973, chapter 605, as they relate to the preparation of a vocational budget and the allocation of costs to the member units of the vocational region are hereby validated, ratified and confirmed for the 1974 budget year.

7. Bonding authority. If the cooperative board deems it advisable to issue bonds or notes for the construction of regional vocational facilities, the

board shall call a regional meeting using the procedures set forth in sections 225 and 304. The results of the referendum vote in each municipality shall be reported forthwith to the secretary of the cooperative board. The board shall meet and make an appropriate finding of fact as required in section 225, subsection 4.

When the cooperative board of the region determines from a vote of the citizens of the region that bonds or notes for capital outlay purposes shall be issued, they shall pass a resolution to that effect setting forth the amount of the proposal and the purpose or purposes for which the proceeds were authorized. The limit of indebtedness shall not exceed 4% of the total state valuation of all the municipalities comprising the region and shall be outside the debt limitations of the individual member municipalities of the region.

8. Transportation. Transportation of students shall be provided by the cooperative board to all regional technical and vocational centers, or regions and satellite programs, or both, that are in operation. Transportation shall not be provided outside the designated region, center or satellite unless approved by the commissioner. State aid for transportation shall be computed and paid to the administrative units of the region in the same proportion that the administrative unit contributes to the vocational education budget of the region.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this Act is to eliminate confusion between the Regional Technical Vocational Centers and the Vocational Education Regions which have been established under the same chapter of the Maine Revised Statutes by separating and reorganizing provisions for the 2 functions.