

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2151

H. P. 1982

House of Representatives, February 2, 1976

Referred to Committee on Election Laws. Reported by Mrs. Boudreau from Committee on Election Laws Pursuant to H. P. 1646. Printed under Joint Rules No. 3.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

(Filed under Joint Rule 3 pursuant to H. P. 1646)

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT Relating to Voting Places in Certain Unorganized Townships.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the inhabitants of Rockwood Strip should be allowed to vote in a separate voting place from the inhabitants of Jackman in the upcoming primary election; and

Whereas, the existing statutes should be reorganized and clarified; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1573 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 1573. Separate voting places; reimbursement of election expense

1. Voting places in unorganized townships. The procedure for establishing a voting place in the following unorganized townships is as follows.

A. Connor. The municipal officers of Caswell Plantation are directed to establish a voting place at Connor, an unorganized township in the County of Aroostook, for all state and national elections, including primary elec-

tions, at which voting place all residents of unorganized places entitled to vote in Caswell Plantation may cast their ballots under the conditions provided in this section. The municipal officers shall prepare a separate list of such voters, resident in unorganized places who are entitled to vote in Caswell Plantation, as may request the privilege of voting at Connor at the time they qualify as voters in Caswell Plantation under section 246, and all persons whose names are so included in that list shall be entitled to vote at that voting place in Connor instead of at Caswell Plantation.

Municipal officers of Caswell Plantation shall select 4 ballot clerks from the inhabitants of Connor, representing the 2 political parties which at the gubernatorial election next preceding such appointment cast the greatest number of votes and shall select a warden who shall be a resident of Caswell Plantation.

The conduct of elections at that voting place shall be the same as in towns having separate districts and all the provisions of the Revised Statutes with respect to separate voting districts in towns are made applicable to that voting place at Connor as though the same were located within the territorial limits of Caswell Plantation. The powers and duties of municipal officers in such case are conferred upon the municipal officers of Caswell Plantation.

B. Kingman. The municipal officers of Prentiss Plantation are directed to establish a voting place at Kingman, an unorganized township in the County of Penobscot, for all state and national elections, including primary elections, at which voting place all residents of unorganized places entitled to vote in Prentiss Plantation may cast their ballots under the conditions provided in this section. The municipal officers shall prepare a separate list of such voters, resident in unorganized places who are entitled to vote in Prentiss Plantation, as may request the privilege of voting at Kingman at the time they qualify as voters in Prentiss Plantation under section 246, and all persons whose names are so included in that list shall be entitled to vote at that voting place in Kingman instead of at Prentiss Plantation.

Municipal officers of Prentiss Plantation shall select 4 ballot clerks from the inhabitants of Kingman, representing the 2 political parties which at the gubernatorial election next preceding such appointment cast the greatest number of votes and shall select a warden who shall be a resident of Prentiss Plantation.

The conduct of elections at that voting place shall be the same as in towns having separate voting districts and all the provisions of the Revised Statutes with respect to separate voting districts in towns are made applicable to that voting place at Kingman as though the same were located within the territorial limits of Prentiss Plantation. The powers and duties of the municipal officers in such case are conferred upon the municipal officers of Prentiss Plantation.

C. Rockwood Strip. The municipal officers of the Town of Jackman are directed to establish a voting place at Rockwood Strip, an unorganized township located in the northern portion of Townships 1 and 2, Range 1,

N.B.K.P. in Somerset County, for all state and national elections, including primary elections, at which voting place all residents of unorganized places entitled to vote in the Town of Jackman may cast their ballots under the conditions provided in this section. The municipal officers shall prepare a separate list of such voters, resident in unorganized places who are entitled to vote in the Town of Jackman, as may request the privilege of voting at Rockwood Strip at the time they qualify as voters in the Town of Jackman under section 246, and all persons whose names are so included in that list shall be entitled to vote at that voting place in Rockwood Strip instead of at the Town of Jackman.

Municipal officers of the Town of Jackman shall select 4 ballot clerks from the inhabitants of Rockwood Strip, representing the 2 political parties which at the gubernatorial election next preceding such appointment cast the greatest number of votes and shall select a warden who shall be a resident of the Town of Jackman.

The conduct of elections at that voting place shall be the same as in towns having separate voting districts and all the provisions of the Revised Statutes with respect to separate voting districts in towns are made applicable to that voting place at Rockwood Strip as though the same were located within the territorial limits of the Town of Jackman. The powers and duties of the municipal officers in such case are conferred upon the municipal officers of the Town of Jackman.

D. Sinclair, T17, R4. The municipal officers of the Town of Saint Agatha are directed to establish a voting place at Sinclair, T17, R4, an unorganized township in the County of Aroostook, for all state and national elections, at which voting place all residents of unorganized places entitled to vote in the Town of Saint Agatha may cast their ballots under the conditions provided in this section. The municipal officers shall prepare a separate list of such voters, resident in unorganized places who are entitled to vote in the Town of Saint Agatha, as may request the privilege of voting at Sinclair, T17, R4 at the time they qualify as voters in the Town of Saint Agatha under section 246, and all persons whose names are so included in that list shall be entitled to vote at that voting place in Sinclair, T17, R4 instead of at the Town of Saint Agatha.

Municipal officers of the Town of Saint Agatha shall select 4 ballot clerks from the inhabitants of Sinclair, T17, R4, representing the 2 political parties which at the gubernatorial election next preceding such appointment cast the greatest number of votes and shall select a warden who shall be a resident of the Town of Saint Agatha.

The conduct of elections at that voting place shall be the same as in towns having separate voting districts and all the provisions of the Revised Statutes with respect to separate voting districts in towns are made applicable to that voting place at Sinclair, T17, R4, as though the same were located within the territorial limits of the Town of Saint Agatha. The powers and duties of the municipal officers in such case are conferred upon the municipal officers of the Town of Saint Agatha.

2. Reimbursement of election expense. The Secretary of State shall reimburse the municipal officers of each township for those expenses incurred in the conduct of elections held pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1573-A, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 12, § 1, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 21 MRSA § 1573-B, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 622, § 69-A and as amended by PL 1973, c. 625, § 115, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 21 MRSA § 1573-A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 605, § 1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State the sum of \$1,600 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1975-76

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

All Other

\$1,600

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

FISCAL NOTE

It is estimated that the cost of establishing the 4 voting places provided for in this bill will be \$1,600. Public Law 1975, chapter 605, section 1573-C, which this bill repeals and replaces, appropriated \$1,200 for this purpose. Due to the fact the \$1,200 appropriation is being repealed a new appropriation is necessary. The new appropriation is higher because it includes \$400 for the voting place at Rockwood Strip.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is one of the results of the study order to the Election Law Committee.

This bill repeals and replaces sections 1573, 1573-A, 1573-B and 1573-C. Most of the bill is not new but is a reorganization of the existing statutes.

The one major addition proposed in the bill would require the municipal officers of Jackman to establish a separate voting place for the inhabitants of Rockwood Strip. Presently, the 140, approximate figure, registered voters must travel over 30 miles to Jackman in order to vote in state elections.