

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 422

H. P. 331

House of Representatives, February 10, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Eliminating the Requirement of January Annual Meetings by the
Parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the Diocese of Maine.**

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

Sec. 1. P & SL 1869, c. 180, § 2, as last amended by P & SL 1921, c. 22, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Sec. 2. Meetings shall be held at such time as parish shall designate. Said agreement shall also contain, first, the name or title by which the parish shall be known, which shall be as follows, namely: The rector, wardens and vestrymen of _____ church in _____; but no parish shall be organized in any town or city, bearing the same name with any other Protestant Episcopal church already organized therein; second, the town or city and county in which it is located; third, the number of vestrymen, not exceeding eleven, and the time of the annual meeting, which shall be at such time as such parish shall designate.

Sec. 2. P & SL 1869, c. 180, § 7, as last amended by P & SL 1921, c. 22, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Sec. 7. Meetings to be held at such time as parish shall designate. The annual meeting shall take place at such time as such parish shall designate, and at such annual meeting an election of the requisite number of wardens and vestrymen shall be had, to serve until the next annual meeting, and until their successors shall be chosen.

Sec. 3. P & SL 1869, c. 180, § 13, as last amended by P & SL 1921, c. 22, § 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 13. Amended to conform with change in date of annual meeting. Upon such execution, acknowledgment and recording of such agreement, such parish shall, without further action, be deemed to all intents and purposes reorganized, and all rights of property and of contract shall remain unimpaired, and the corporate identity of such parish shall continue unchanged. The wardens and vestrymen in office shall continue therein until the annual election ~~in January~~ next following such reorganization, and until a new board shall be chosen, and no other meeting or notice shall be necessary to complete such reorganization; provided, that when a new board shall be chosen, it shall consist of the number of vestrymen required by such articles of reorganization.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This proposed Private and Special Law removes the requirement that parishes of the Protestant Episcopal churches of the Diocese of Maine have their annual meeting in January. This proposed law is almost identical to the Private and Special Law of 1921, chapter 22, which changed the date of annual meetings from the first week in advent to January. This 1921 change was not the first time the date of annual parish meetings had been changed. In Private and Special Law of 1869, chapter 180, the allotted time for parish annual meetings was Easter week. This was changed to the first week in Advent by Private and Special Law of 1897, chapter 564 and Private and Special Law of 1899, chapter 5.

This history of changing annual meeting dates and the current practice of many parishes in holding a formal meeting in January and then adjourning to a later date, when the real meeting will be held, clearly justifies the proposed law. Furthermore, proposed changes in the diocese's operation make this flexibility necessary.