

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1372**

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H. P. 1113

House of Representatives, March 29, 1977

On motion of Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls, referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rollins of Dixfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Dissolve Vocational Region 9 and to Establish  
a Vocational Center to Serve Northern Oxford County.**

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

Whereas, citizens within Vocational Region 9, Northern Oxford County, have expressed dissatisfaction with the present method of providing vocational education programs; and

Whereas, because of this dissatisfaction, voters in the region have not raised funds for vocational education programs during the current year; and

Whereas, an alternative method of providing vocational education to students within the region is desired immediately; 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. Vocational Region 9 dissolved.** Vocational Region 9, Northern Oxford County, as established under the Revised Statutes, Title 20, chapter 307 is hereby dissolved and all rights, duties, powers, obligations, assets, liabilities, privileges and immunities of the region and its cooperative board are transferred to, and are assumed by the Town of Rumford.

**Sec. 2. Town of Rumford designated as a vocational center.**

A vocational center is established within the Town of Rumford and shall be governed by the Rumford school committee. The Town of Rumford shall accept students from all school units within the former Vocational Region 9 jurisdictional area and shall immediately upon approval of this Act file a plan with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services pursuant to the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 2356-A.

**Sec. 3. Referendum.** This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of Vocational Region 9 at special meetings held within 60 days after the effective date of this Act. Meetings shall be called by the cooperative board in the same manner as provided in the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 225. The cooperative board shall prepare the required ballots, upon which shall be reduced the following question :

“Shall ‘An Act to Dissolve Vocational Region 9 and Establish a Vocational Center to Serve Northern Oxford County,’ as passed by the first regular session of the 108th Legislature, be accepted?”

The voters of the region shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words “yes” or “no” their opinion of the same. The result of the vote shall be declared by the cooperative board and a certificate of the result of the vote shall be filed with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services.

**Sec. 4. Election by dissenting units.** If the question in section 3 is approved, then any school unit which did not approve the question shall have the option of joining any contiguous vocational region or neighboring regional vocational technical center subject to the approval of the commissioner and of the region or center, and as provided below :

1. **Vote to accept dissenting unit.** If the dissenting unit seeks to join a vocational center, then the legislative body of the center shall vote whether to accept that unit. If the unit is accepted, the governing body shall amend its plan on file with the state board to include the dissenting unit within the regional center.

2. **Joint meeting.** If the dissenting unit seeks to join a vocational region, then the commissioner shall as soon as practicable call a joint meeting in the manner provided in the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 2356-G, subsection 3, so that :

**A.** Members of the school committee or board of directors of each unit of the region to be joined may vote to approve or disapprove the dissenting unit; and

**B.** Members of the school committee or board of directors of each unit including the dissenting unit, may vote to determine how each member unit will be represented on the cooperative board and the method of sharing costs if the region has voted to accept the dissenting unit.

3. **Written request.** The governing body of a dissenting unit that seeks to join another region or center shall submit a written request to the commissioner prior to January 1, 1978.

4. **Boundaries of vocational center or region.** The commissioner is expressly authorized to change the boundaries of any regional vocational technical center or vocational region to include any dissenting unit which joins a center or region.

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 1, **Region 9**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 513, § 10, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA § 2356-G, sub-§ 1, last ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 513, § 10, is amended to read:

The boundaries of the 11 regions shall not be changed ~~except by action of~~ **as authorized by** 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.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved by a majority of the 6 school units within Vocational Region 9 that includes the Town of Rumford and when the cooperative board files a certificate of the results with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.