

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1535

S. P. 445

Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. In Senate, April 13, 1977
and ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Merrill of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Require Adequate Polling Facilities in Municipalities.

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

21 MRSA § 603, sub-§ 1, 1st sentence, is amended to read:

The municipal officers of each municipality shall provide at least one voting booth for each ~~200~~ 150 voters qualified to vote at each voting place.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The abolition of the so-called "big box" and the increasing number of complicated referendum questions have required voters to spend longer and longer times in the voting booths in order to choose among candidates and referendum questions. As a result, the lines of voters waiting their turn to vote have become longer and longer as well. It is unfair to make working men and women either wait inordinate amounts of time in line to vote or to forego their voting privilege, so the Legislature must act to provide additional voting facilities.

This bill will provide those much needed voting booths, by requiring municipalities to provide at least one voting booth for every 150 voters qualified to vote at each voting place.