

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1970

(Filing No. S-553)

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
108TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1909,
L.D. 1970, Bill, "AN ACT to Provide for Alternative Election
Procedures for School Budgets on a Local Basis."

Amend the Bill in section 2 in that part designated "§226-A."
in subsection 1 by striking out all of the last 3 lines (same
in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

"Shall District No. _____ vote to require that the voting at
future district budget meetings and special district budget
meetings held between July 2, 1978 and July 1, 1980,
be done within each member municipality of the district?"

Further amend the Bill in section 2 in that part designated
"§226-A." by striking out all of subsections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
and inserting in their place the following:

'3. Petition to commissioner. Whenever it is determined
that the voters within a School Administrative District have
voted in the affirmative on the article set out in subsection 1,
the board of directors shall notify the Commissioner of Educational
and Cultural Services of that fact and shall request authorization
from the commissioner to cause the voting at all future district
budget meetings and special district budget meetings held
between July 2, 1978 and July 1, 1980, to be done within each
municipality within the district.

4. Selection of districts for local voting. The commissioner shall, following the receipt of requests for authorization pursuant to subsection 3, select not more than 3 School Administrative Districts from those requesting authorization. He shall then notify the boards of directors of those districts that they are authorized to cause the voting at all future district budget meetings and special district budget meetings held between July 2, 1978 and July 1, 1980, to be done within each municipality within the district.

5. Procedure for local voting. Following notification of authorization from the commissioner pursuant to subsection 4, the board of directors of a School Administrative District shall cause the voting at all future district budget meetings and special district budget meetings held between July 2, 1978 and July 1, 1980, to be done within each municipality within the district. The voting shall be held in accordance with the procedures set out in section 225 and the board of directors may hold any informational meetings which they feel are necessary in the manner and place which they feel appropriate prior to any voting. The board of directors shall also be responsible for the form of any articles to be voted on in the municipalities, except as otherwise provided by law.

6. Failure to approve operating budget. If, at any district budget meeting where the voting is done within each municipality within the district, the voters fail to approve the operating school

budget or any part thereof, subsequent district budget meetings shall be held and the voting at these meetings shall be done at a single place within the district. These meetings shall be held solely for the purpose of approving an alternate operating school budget to replace the proposed budget or the part thereof which the voters failed to approve. These meetings shall be held in accordance with the provisions and procedures set out in section 226 and may continue in this manner until an alternate budget is adopted.

7. Report. The board of directors of any School Administrative District authorized to vote pursuant to subsections 4 and 5 shall, no later than December 31, 1980, submit a written report to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services containing the board's evaluation of the following items:

A. Evaluation of the voting procedures authorized by this section;

B. Evaluation of the effectiveness of that procedure in their school administrative district;

C. Opinions on the advisability of retaining that procedure; and

D. Any recommendation for change in the procedures which the board may feel appropriate.

8. Effective date. This section is repealed on January 1, 1981.'

Further amend the Bill by inserting at the end before the Statement of Fact the following:

'Sec. 3. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the Legislature in passing this Act, that the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services actively encourage participation by municipalities in the school budgetary process and in the alternative procedures adopted in this Act. To accomplish this intent the commissioner may arrange for and sponsor workshops for participating boards of directors to assist them in completing the pilot program.

Sec. 4. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act:

	<u>1978-79</u>
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$6,000

To provide for continuity for workshops and to offset additional costs of the voting methods established in the pilot project.

These funds appropriated for the fiscal year 1978-79 shall not lapse but shall carry forward to January 1, 1981 to be expended for the same purposes.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to provide for a 2-year pilot program during which not more than 3 districts shall be selected by the commissioner to use the alternative voting procedure. The amendment also provides for workshops for participating boards of directors and makes an appropriation of \$6,000 to carry out the purposes of the bill.

Reported by the Committee of Conference.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

March 15, 1978

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