

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-291)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 330, L.D. 964, Bill,
"AN ACT Relating to Dental Health."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of subsection 4
and inserting in its place the following:

'4. Vote; notice. The municipal officers or, in towns with a town meeting form of government, the voters of the town, shall ~~hold~~ hold a public meeting prior to voting on whether to fluoridate the town's water supply. A majority vote of the legislative body, or of the town meeting, shall be sufficient to authorize fluoridation.

The vote authorizing fluoridation shall become effective 30 days after the vote, unless a petition is commenced within that time, in accordance with subsection 5. A notice of the results of the vote and the effective date shall be prominently displayed in the town.

5. Referendum; petition. If the legislative body or the town meeting authorizes fluoridation, any legal voter of the municipality or inhabitant of the town or plantation entitled to vote at an annual or plantation meeting may commence a referendum petition to overturn the vote within 30 days of the vote authorizing fluoridation. Unless otherwise specified at the local level, the petition drive shall be complete within 30 days of its commencement.

If the petition is signed by a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in that municipality, town or plantation at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the municipal officers shall call for, advertise and conduct a referendum election, in accordance with Title 30, sections 2061 and 2065, on the question of whether the water supply should be fluoridated. Unless otherwise specified at the local level, the election shall be held within 90 days of the completion and verification of the petition.

6. Authorization; further action.

A. Any public utility or agency duly authorized to add fluoride to any public water supply shall do so within 9 months after being notified in accordance with this section. This may take place/^{at the earliest}either 30 days after the date of a vote authorizing the installation of fluoride, 30 days after the failure of a petition drive or 30 days after the date of a referendum election.

B. After the municipality, through vote following a hearing or through referendum, has voted on the installation of fluoride, it may not vote again in any manner on fluoridation for a minimum period of 2 years from the date of the vote or referendum election.

7. Public utility or agency serving more than one municipality. In the case of a public utility or agency serving more than one municipality, the authorization shall become

effective after a majority of the municipal officers in each municipality, a majority of the legislative body or of the town meeting of each town has voted for installation of fluoride. If any one town has a referendum to overturn the vote authorizing fluoride, there shall be a vote on fluoridation at the date of the next statewide election. Installation of fluoride is not authorized except by vote ^{of at least} / 51% of those voting in the election and living in towns served by the public utility or agency.

Following the general vote on fluoridation, there cannot be another general vote in any manner on fluoridation for a minimum period of 2 years from the date of the general vote.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment clarifies the procedure for voting by breaking one subsection into 4 subsections, indicating all the necessary steps required.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Health and Institutional Services.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

June 1, 1979

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