

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft of H. P. 1124, L. D. 1473
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1655

H. P. 1463

House of Representatives, June 1, 1979

Reported by Mrs. Beaulieu from the Committee on Education. Printed under
Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Authorize the Citizens of Hancock County to Vote on the Matter of
Converting Vocational Region #5 to a Vocational Center.**

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

Sec. 1. Vocational Region #5 dissolved. Vocational Region #5, Hancock County, as established under the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 2356-G, 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 City of Ellsworth.

Sec. 2. City of Ellsworth designated as a vocational center. A vocational center is established within the City of Ellsworth and shall be governed by the Ellsworth School Committee. The City of Ellsworth shall accept students from all school administrative units within the former Vocational Region #5 jurisdictional area and shall, within 120 days after the approval of this Act, as set forth herein, file a plan with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services pursuant to the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 2356.

Sec. 3. Referendum. This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of Vocational Region #5 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 for in the Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 225, to vote on the following question: "Shall Vocational Region #5 be converted to a vocational center?" If the cooperative board is unable to fulfill this function, the commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services is authorized to call these meetings.

The voters of the region shall indicate by a cross or check mark 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.

Additional questions shall be included on the ballot as deemed necessary and appropriate for the purpose of effectuating the transfer of title and bonded indebtedness associated with school facilities presently owned by Vocational Region #5. The form and substance of the articles, if deemed necessary, shall be jointly approved by the Office of the Attorney General and counsel for the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

Sec. 4. Conditions of voter approval. This Act shall be deemed to have been approved by the voters in the event that the articles are approved in the majority by the voters of the City of Ellsworth and a majority of the remaining school administrative units in Hancock County representing a majority of the total votes cast in the administrative units.

Sec. 5. Preparation of vocational plan. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the cooperative board of Vocational Region #5 is authorized to expend such moneys as may be available to it for the purposes of developing the vocational education plan referred to in section 2 and making payments as it deems appropriate in providing for the security, maintenance and debt service obligations on the existing vocational education facility.

The Ellsworth School Committee is authorized to expend such moneys as may be available to it subject to voter approval of a vocational center being established within the City of Ellsworth for purposes relating to the planning for and delivery of vocational education programs.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the voters of Hancock County to decide in referendum as to whether they wish to convert the present vocational region to a vocational center located in Ellsworth. This conversion would take effect only if approved by a majority of the voters in the other school administrative units within the county.