

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 822

H. P. 652

House of Representatives, February 12, 1981

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Representative Connolly of Portland, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McCollister of Canton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Provide for State Coordination of Referendums Concerning School Construction Projects.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 225, sub-§ 3, ¶ A, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs, as amended by PL 1967, c. 224, § 1, are repealed as follows:

The following question is to be used where a new school is to be constructed:
"Shall the school directors of School Administrative District No. .... be authorized to issue bonds or notes in name of said district for capital outlay purposes in an amount not to exceed \$ ..... to construct a ..... to be located (primary or secondary school) at ..... ? (specifically define lot where school is to be erected)

Yes No''

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 3471, sub-§ 2, ¶ E, sub-¶ (1), as amended by PL 1979, c. 691, § 18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

(1) The governing board of an administrative unit, as defined in section 3452, shall notify the Secretary of State of its intention to seek approval of a

school construction project by the voters resident in the area served by the unit and shall provide him with the information required in subparagraph (4).

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 3471, sub-§ 2, ¶ E, sub-¶ (2) and (3), as enacted by PL 1979, c. 260, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

(2) The Secretary of State shall prepare all ballots and related election materials and shall conduct a referendum election substantially in accordance with Title 21. The elections shall be held at the time of scheduled statewide elections unless the Secretary of State is notified by the State Board of Education that an emergency exists which requires an earlier election. In case of an emergency, the Secretary of State shall hold the election as soon as administratively possible.

(3) The Secretary of State shall submit the tabulation of the election returns to the State Board of Education.

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 3471, sub-§ 2, ¶ E, sub-¶ (5) is enacted to read:

(5) The form of the question submitted to the voters shall be substantially as follows:

“Shall the..... of .....  
(governing body) (administrative unit)  
be authorized to issue bonds or notes in its name for capital outlay purposes in an amount not to exceed \$ ....., to construct a.....  
.....  
(primary or secondary school)  
to be located at .....  
(specifically define lot where school is to be erected)?  
erected)

Yes No”

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides that referendums concerning school construction projects will be conducted by the Secretary of State’s Bureau of Elections rather than by the school administrative units as is currently the case. The bill provides that, except for emergencies, all such elections shall be held at the time of scheduled statewide elections.

The purpose of this bill is to improve the quality of election administration for these referendums and to reduce the number of separate elections facing voters by requiring that they be held in conjunction with already scheduled statewide elections.