

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1146  
6

7 S.P. 372

In Senate, March 9, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule  
9 24.

10 Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent  
down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Bustin of Kennebec.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Chonko of Topsham, Representative Manning  
of Portland and Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
16

17 AN ACT to Improve Maine's Dental  
18 Health.  
19

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

22 22 MRSA §2652, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, §4,  
23 is amended to read:

24 §2652. Authorization

25 No public water system ~~shall~~ may add any fluoride  
26 to any such water supply without first having been  
27 authorized to do so by the municipality or municipal-  
28 ities served by it. Any public water system duly  
29 authorized to add fluoride to any water supply shall  
30 do so within 9 months after being notified in accord-  
31 dance with this section. The town or city clerk  
32 shall, within 10 days after the vote, notify the  
33 public water system of the vote favoring the addition

1 of fluoride to the public water supply. In the case  
2 of a city, such that authorization shall be by a  
3 majority vote of the legal voters voting at a regular  
4 or special city election. In the case of a town or  
5 plantation, such that authorization shall be by a  
6 majority vote of the inhabitants present at an annual  
7 town or plantation meeting. In the case of a public  
8 water system serving more than one municipality, such  
9 that authorization shall be by a majority vote of the  
10 voters voting at such that city election and a major-  
11 ity vote of the inhabitants present at an annual town  
12 or plantation meeting of each town or plantation  
13 served by the public water system. Authorization by  
14 municipalities representing 80% a majority of the  
15 customers served by such that public water system  
16 shall be sufficient. Whenever a municipality shall  
17 have approved fluoridation, it may not again vote on  
18 the matter for a minimum period of 2 years from the  
19 date of installation of fluoride. The Public Utili-  
20 ties Commission, upon application, shall determine  
21 and allocate the cost of such that fluoridation among  
22 the customers of such that public water system and  
23 shall from time to time review such determination and  
24 allocation as required. In the event that a munici-  
25 pality which shall have approved fluoridation shall  
26 vote to discontinue such that fluoridation, the  
27 public water system shall be entitled to amortize the  
28 remaining cost of its investment in such these facil-  
29 ities and to allocate the cost of such that amortiza-  
30 tion among its customers, over such period of time as  
31 shall be approved by the Public Utilities Commission.  
32 As used in this section, "customer" means the number  
33 of active residential service connections as reported  
34 to the Public Utilities Commission.

35 STATEMENT OF FACT

36 The long-term studies of the effects of water  
37 fluoridation have demonstrated an average of 65%  
38 reduction in tooth decay.

39 This bill modifies the referendum procedure to  
40 allow a simple majority of communities in a multiple  
41 community water district to approve fluoridation of  
42 the public water supply. This statutory change will  
43 facilitate the provision of fluoridation benefits to

1 more Maine children. Decades of research and more  
2 than a quarter of a century of practical experience  
3 has demonstrated an impressive record of dental dis-  
4 ease prevention through fluoridation of public water  
5 supplies. The State Health Coordinating Council has  
6 identified fluoridation of public water supplies as a  
7 major public health priority.

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