

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2331

S.P. 858

In Senate, March 20, 1984

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Under suspension of the rules, read twice and passed to be engrossed without reference to committee, sent down for concurrence.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator McBreairty of Aroostook.

Cosponsor: Representative Martin of Van Buren.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Authorize County Commissioners
to Establish Separate Voting Places in
Unorganized Townships.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA §246, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 496, §10, is amended to read:

~~Registration~~ In accordance with section 1573, registration, enrollment and voting by the resident of a township are governed by the following provisions:

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA §1573, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 774, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1 §1573. Separate voting places; reimbursement of
2 election expense

3 1. Voting places in unorganized townships. The
4 procedure for establishing a voting place in unorga-
5 nized townships is as follows.

6 A. The commissioners of each county may provide
7 or contract with a municipality to provide a vot-
8 ing place in any unorganized township in their
9 county, for all state and national elections, in-
10 cluding primary elections, at which voting place
11 all residents of unorganized places entitled to
12 vote in municipalities near the township, pursu-
13 ant section 246, may cast their ballots under
14 conditions provided in this section.

15 B. The commissioner or the municipal officers of
16 the contracting municipality shall prepare a sep-
17 arate list of these voters and shall select at
18 least 4 ballot clerks from the inhabitants of the
19 township, representing the 2 political parties
20 which at the gubernatorial election next preced-
21 ing that appointment cast the greatest number of
22 votes, and shall select a warden who may be a
23 resident of the township.

24 C. The conduct of elections at that voting place
25 shall be the same as in municipalities and all
26 provisions of the Revised Statutes with respect
27 to voting districts are made applicable to that
28 voting place. The powers and duties of the mu-
29 nicipal officers in such case are conferred upon
30 the commissioners or the municipal officers of
31 the contracting municipality.

32 D. Upon receipt of a petition signed by at least
33 10 persons qualified to vote pursuant to section
34 246, the commissioners shall provide or contract
35 with a municipality to provide a voting place in
36 the unorganized township provided in the peti-
37 tion.

38 2. Reimbursement of election expense. The coun-
39 ty commissioners shall reimburse the municipality for
40 those expenses incurred in the conduct of elections
41 held pursuant to this section.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill repeals the section of the election law
3 which mandates that certain municipalities establish
4 voting places in the following unorganized townships:
5 Connor; Kingman; Rockwood Strip; and Sinclair, T17
6 R4. The new language provides a framework in which
7 county commissioners may provide or contract with a
8 municipality to provide a voting place in any unorga-
9 nized township in their county.

10 The Revised Statutes, Title 21, section 1573,
11 subsection 1, paragraph D, requires the county com-
12 missioners to provide or contract for such a voting
13 place upon receipt of a petition signed by at least
14 50 persons qualified to vote in the unorganized town-
15 ships of that county.

16 The Revised Statutes, Title 21, section 1573,
17 subsection 2, changes the reimbursement provisions so
18 that the Secretary of State no longer reimburses mu-
19 nicipalities for the conduct of such elections from
20 the Unorganized Territory Educational and Services
21 Tax. Now the county commissioners must reimburse the
22 contracting municipalities for expenses incurred.

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