

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1280

S.P. 478

In Senate, March 25, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

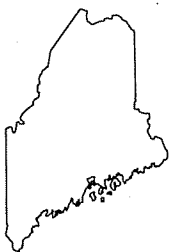
Presented by President PRAY of Penobscot

Cosponsored by Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs, Representative STROUT of Corinth and Senator ESTY of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Enhance Voters' Rights in Relation to School Administrative District Budgets.



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

20-A MRSA §1308, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8,
is amended to read:

§1308. Failure to pass budget

If a budget for the operating of the district is not approved prior to July 1st, the budget as ~~submitted by the board of directors shall be~~ approved for the prior year is automatically considered the budget approved for operational expenses for the ensuing year. In districts with line item budgets, only those line items rejected by the voters are funded at the prior year's amount. All other lines are funded in the amounts approved by the voters.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Under current law, a school administrative district budget that has been rejected by the voters goes into effect anyway unless a subsequent budget is proposed and passed. The voters do not have the expertise or time to create an alternative proposal nor do they have the power to submit one. This bill provides the board of directors with an incentive to create a meaningful alternative budget if the voters have rejected the original budget proposal. It creates this incentive by keeping the prior year's budget in place until a new budget is passed.