# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

### Legislative Document

No. 1783

H.P. 1225

House of Representatives, May 3, 1991

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27. Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro.

#### STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Amend the Waldoboro Sewer District Charter.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)



Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

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Whereas, the Waldoboro Sewer District wishes to purchase the assets of the Waldoboro Water Company; and

Whereas, it is imperative that the Waldoboro Sewer District purchase the Waldoboro Water Company as soon as possible so that there will be no interruption in the water service supplied to the people of the Town of Waldoboro; and

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Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

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## Sec. 1. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §§1, 2 and 7 are amended to read:

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- Sec. 1. Incorporation. The territory, and the inhabitants therein, of the Town of Waldoboro in the County of Lincoln, shall constitute a -- public -- sewerage -- district -- and a body politic and corporate under the name of "Waldoboro Sewer Utility District"." The purpose of said district , subject to the provisions of section 10 hereef, shall be to take over, control, operate and manage the sewers now owned by the Town of Waldoboro with all appurtenances thereto to the sewers; to extend, increase, enlarge and improve said sewers; to extend the present system or systems so as to furnish sewerage facilities to parts of the town not now served with such facilities; to provide for removal and treatment of sewage when, as and if such treatment become necessary; and generally to construct, maintain, operate and provide a system of sewerage, sewage disposal and sewage treatment for public purposes and for the health, welfare, comfort and convenience of the inhabitants of the district.
- Sec. 2. Authority to construct and maintain. 40 Within territory and the territory of any adjoining municipality said 42 Waldoboro Sewer Utility District is hereby authorized to lay pipes, drains, sewers and conduits, and to take up, repair and 44 maintain the same or to contract for the same to be done, in, along and through any public or private ways and public grounds, 46 and in, along and through lands of any person or corporation as hereafter provided in this charter, to and into tidal waters, 48 rivers, watercourses or treatment works or to or into any drain or sewer new-er-hereafter-built which empties into tidal waters, 50 rivers, watercourses or treatment works, the discharge therefrom from the drain or sewer to be at such points consistent with the 52 requirements of public health as-shall-be found to be convenient

and reasonable for said district and the flow of existing watercourses; to construct and maintain treatment works, pumping stations, basins, reservoirs, flush tanks and such other appliances for collecting, holding, purifying, distributing and disposing of sewage matter and industrial waste and, subject to the provisions of section 10 hereef, of surface and waste water, all as may be necessary or proper; and in general, do any or all other things necessary or incidental to accomplish the purposes of this act.

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- Sec. 7. Rights of abutters or others to enter. Any person may enter his that person's private sewer into any sewer of the district while the same is under construction and before completion of said sewer at the point of entry, and before an entrance charge is established, on obtaining a permit in writing from the trustees; but after the sewer is completed to the point of entry and an entrance charge established on that location, no a person shall may not enter his that person's private sewer into such sewer until he that person has paid the entrance charge and obtained a permit in writing from the trustees as-aferesaid. All such permits shall be recorded by the clerk of the district in its records before the same are issued.
- Sec. 2. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §14, as amended by P&SL 1989, c. 2, §1, is further amended to read:

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Sec. 14. Trustees and officers; tenure of office; election to office; organization; vacancies; compensation. All of the affairs of said district shall-be are managed by a board of 3 trustees, residents therein, who shall-be must be residents of the Town of Waldoboro and who are chosen as hereinafter provided in this section.

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As soon as may-be convenient after acceptance of this act, the municipal officers of the Town of Waldoboro shall appoint 3 trustees of said district to hold office as follows: serve until the first annual meeting of said town following the acceptance of this act; one to serve until the 2nd annual meeting of said town following said acceptance; and one to serve until the 3rd annual meeting of said town following such acceptance. At each annual meeting of said town, beginning with the first annual meeting after acceptance of this act, one trustee shall-be is elected by ballot as hereafter provided in this section to serve until the annual meeting of said town occurring 3 years thereafter after the election of the trustee and until his the trustee's successor is elected and qualified. When any trustee ceases to be a resident of said district, he the trustee vacates his the trustee's office as trustee. All trustees, if residents of said district, shall--be are eligible for reelection or reappointment as hereafter provided in this section.

The nomination of all candidates for trustee to be elected as provided by this act shall must be by nomination papers signed in the aggregate for each candidate by not less than 25 nor more than 50 qualified voters resident in said district. Nomination papers shall must be made available by the municipal clerk to prospective candidates during the 40 days prior to the final date of filing and, before issuance, the town clerk may complete each sheet by filling in the name of the candidate, the title and term of office which is being sought. Each voter who signs a nomination paper shall add the candidate's place of residence with the street and number, if any. The voter may subscribe only to as many nomination papers for each office as there are vacancies to be filled. All nomination papers shall must be filed with the clerk during business hours on or before the 35th day next prior to the day of election. With the nomination papers, there shall must be filed the consent in writing of the persons proposed therein as candidates, agreeing to accept the nomination if nominated, not to withdraw and, if elected at the municipal election, to qualify as the quasi-municipal officer. When filed, the nomination papers shall must be made available by the clerk to public inspection under supervision. The clerk shall keep them in the office for 6 months. In case any candidate who has been duly nominated under the provisions hereef shall--die of this section dies before the day of election, or shall-withdraw withdraws in writing, or shall-remove-his--place ef-residence the candidate moves from said district, the vacancy may be supplied in the manner herein provided for nominations, except that the time limit for filing nomination papers shall does not apply. The name so supplied for the vacancy shall, if the ballots have not been printed, be is placed on the ballots instead of the original nomination; or if the ballots have been printed, new ballots containing the new nomination shall, if practical, be are furnished, or slips containing the new nomination shall-be are printed under the direction of the town clerk which shall-be are pasted upon said ballots and over the name of the candidate whose nomination has been vacated as--aforesaid, and thereafter--shall--beeeme becomes part of said ballots as if originally printed thereen on the ballot. The ballot in said district shall must contain names of candidates so nominated in such district alphabetically arranged, printed in one column under the heading "For Trustee of the Waldoboro Sewer <u>Utility</u> District"." Above such heading shall \_\_\_ (the number to be must be printed "Vote for \_\_\_\_ elected to be inserted therein). Make a cross or a check mark to the right of the name(s) voted for ". " As many blank spaces shall must be left after the names of the candidates as there are trustees to be elected in which the voter may, by writing, insert the name of any person or persons for whom he the voter desires In preparing his the voter's ballot the voter shall mark a cross (X) or a check mark ( ) against and to the right of such names on said ballot as he the voter desires to vote for, not to exceed the number of trustees so to be elected in said

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district. At each annual meeting of said Town of Waldoboro, balloting for trustee of said district shall—take takes place concurrently with balloting for the municipal officers of said town, but separate ballots shall—be are provided for trustee of the district as hereinbefere provided for in this section. The result of such election shall—be is declared by the eeuneilmen municipal officers of said Town of Waldoboro and due certificate thereof of the result filed with the town clerk and the clerk of the district. The district shall reimburse the town for the expense of any district election.

As soon as convenient after the appointment, the first board of trustees shall hold a meeting at some convenient place in the district, to be called by any member thereof of the board in writing, designating the time and place and delivered in and to the other 2 members not less than 2 full days before the meeting; previded,—however,—that—they—may—meet—by—agreeing—without—such notice if the trustees agree to a time and place for the meeting, a notice is not required. At this original meeting the trustees shall organize by electing from their own members a chairman chair, a treasurer and a clerk and adopting a corporate seal. The trustees may adopt and establish bylaws, consistent with the laws of the State of—Maine and necessary for their own convenience and for the proper management of the affairs of the district, and perform any other acts within the powers delegated to them by law.

Within one week after each annual election, the trustees shall meet for the purpose of electing a chairman chair, treasurer and clerk to serve for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected and qualified. The trustees from time to time may choose and employ, and fix the compensation of, any other necessary officers and agents who shall serve at their pleasure. The treasurer shall furnish bond in such sum and with such sureties as the trustees shall approve, the cost thereof of the bond to be paid by the district.

Members of the board of trustees shall-be are eligible to any office under the board. The trustees, as such, shall receive as compensation for their services an amount to be determined by them not to exceed \$300 each per year, but if they fail to determine a salary they shall receive \$10 each for each meeting of the board which they attend. The treasurer may be allowed such compensation as the trustees shall determine.

The trustees shall-be <u>are</u> sworn to the faithful performance of their duties as such, which shall-include <u>includes</u> the duties of any member who shall-serve <u>serves</u> as clerk or clerk pro tem. They shall make and publish an annual report, including a report of the treasurer, and such report may be included in, and published as part of the town report.

Vacancies in the office of trustee from whatever cause shall be are filled by appointment by the remaining trustees until the next annual election. If at any annual election there shall exist exists a vacancy in an unexpired term, a trustee shall-be is elected to fill such vacancy for such unexpired term, and the voters of the district shall cast the ballots as hereinbefore prescribed in this section, voting for as many candidates as there are offices to be filled.

10 Sec. 3. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §17, as amended by P&SL 1989, c. 2, §2, is further amended to read:

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Sec. 17. Authorized to borrow money to issue bonds and notes. For accomplishing the purposes of this Act, the district, resolutions of its board of trustees, without district vote, is hereby authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue therefer for the money its negotiable notes, and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness so created, of paying any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under this Act, including organizational and other provisions of necessary expenses and liabilities incurred by the district or the Town of Waldoboro, the district being authorized to reimburse the Town of Waldoboro for any such expense incurred or paid by it, and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying sewers, drains and conduits, constructing, maintaining and operating a sewage plant or system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to the same and to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the Waldoboro Sewer Utility District, by resolutions of its board of trustees, without district vote, is also hereby authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness of the district in one series or in separate series, in such amount or amounts, bearing interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees shall determine; previded, hewever, - that but the total indebtedness of the district at any one time outstanding shall does not exceed the sum of \$1,000,000 \$3,000,000 and that any single expenditure which exceeds \$100,000 \$200,000 must be approved by district vote. Said bonds, notes and evidences of indebtedness may be issued to mature serially or made to run for such periods as the trustees may determine, but nene-ef-them-shall the bonds, notes and evidences of indebtedness may not run for a longer period than 40 years from the date of original issue thereef of the bonds, notes and evidences of indebtedness. Bonds, notes or evidences of indebtedness may be issued with or without provision for calling the same prior to maturity, and if callable may be made callable at par or at such premium as the trustees may determine. All bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall must have inscribed upon their face the words "Waldoboro Sewer Utility District", shall-be" are signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the ehairman chair of the board of trustees of the district, and if coupon bonds are issued, the interest coupons attached therete-shall to the coupon

bonds must bear the facsimile of the signature of the treasurer. All such bonds, notes and evidences of indebtedness so issued by the district shall--be are legal obligations of the district, which is hereby-declared-to-be a quasi-municipal corporation within-the-meaning-of-the Revised Statutes of 1954, -chapter-90-A, section-23,--as-enacted-by-the-public-laws-of-1957,--chapter-405, seetien-1,-as-amended, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2351 and all provisions of said section shall be are applicable thereto. The said district may, from time to time, issue in one series or in separate series, its bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness, for the purpose of paying, redeeming or refunding outstanding bonds, notes or evidences of indebtedness, and each authorized issue shall---constitute constitutes a separate loan. All bonds, notes and evidences of indebtedness issued by said district shall--be are legal investments for savings banks in the State of-Maine and shall-be The said district is hereby authorized and are tax exempt. empowered to enter into agreements with the State or Federal Government, or any agency of either, or any corporation, commission or board authorized by the State or Federal Government to grant or loan money to or otherwise assist in the financing of projects such as the district is authorized to carry out, and to accept grants and borrow money from any such government agency, corporation, commission or board as may be necessary or desirable to enforce this act.

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### Sec. 4. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §§19 and 21 are amended to read:

Sec. 19. Assessment against lot benefited. When the district has constructed and completed a common sewer, the trustees may, if they so determine, in order to defray a portion of the expense thereof of the sewer, determine what lots or parcels of land are benefited by such sewer, and estimate and assess upon such lots and parcels of land, and against the owner thereof of the lots and parcels of land, or person in possession or against whom taxes thereon are assessed, whether said person to whom the assessment is so made shall be the owner, tenant, lessee or agent and whether the same is occupied or not, such sum not exceeding such benefit as they may deem determine just and equitable towards defraying the expenses of constructing and completing sewer, together with such sewage disposal units appurtenances as may be necessary, the whole of such assessments not to exceed 1/2 of the cost of such sewer and sewage disposal The trustees shall file with the clerk of the district the location of such sewer and sewage disposal unit, with a profile description of the same, and a statement of the amount assessed upon each lot or parcel of land so assessed, description of each lot or parcel, and the name of the owner of such lots or parcels of land or person against whom said assessment shall be made, and the clerk of such district shall record the same in a book kept for that purpose, and within 10 days after such filing, each person so assessed shall be notified

such assessment by having an authentic copy of said assessment, with an order or notice signed by the clerk of said district, stating the time and place for a hearing upon the subject matter of said assessments, given to each person so assessed or left at his the person's usual place of abode in said district; if he the person has no place of abode in said district, then by posting said notice in some conspicuous place in the vicinity of the lot or parcel of land so assessed, at least 30 days before said hearing, or such notice may be given by publishing the same once a week, for 3 successive weeks in any newspaper of general circulation in said district, the first publication to be at least 30 days before said hearing. A return made upon a copy of such notice by any constable in said Town of Waldoboro or the production of the paper containing such notice shall be conclusive evidence that said notice has been given, and upon such hearing the trustees shall have power to revise, increase or diminish any of such assessments, and all such revisions, increases or diminutions shall be in writing and recorded by the clerk of the district.

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Sec. 21. Assessments; liens; sheriff's sale. All assessments made under section 19 shall create a lien upon each and every lot or parcel of land so assessed and the buildings upon the same, which lien shall take effect when the trustees file with the clerk of the district the completed assessment and shall continue for one year thereafter after filing of the assessment; and within 10 days after the date of hearing on said assessment the clerk of the district shall make out a list of all such assessments, the amount of each, and the name of the person against whom the same is assessed, and he the clerk shall certify the list and deliver it to the treasurer of said district. If said assessments are not paid within 3 months from the date thereof of delivery of the <u>list</u> the treasurer may bring an action of debt for the collection of said assessment in the name of the district against the person against whom, said assessment is made. Such action shall be begun by writ of attachment commanding the officer serving it to specially attach the real estate upon which the lien is claimed, which shall be served as other writs of attachment to enforce liens on real estate. The declaration in such action shall contain a statement of such assessment, a description of the real estate against which the assessment is made, and an allegation that a lien is claimed on said real estate to secure the payment of the assessment. If no service is made upon the defendant or it shall appear that any other persons are interested in such real estate, the court shall order such further notice of such action as appears proper, and shall allow such other persons to become parties therete to the action. If it shall appear upon trial of such action that such assessment was legally made against said real estate, and is unpaid, and that there is an existing lien on said real estate for the payment of assessment, judgment shall be rendered for such assessment, interest, and costs οf suit against

defendants and against the real estate upon which the assessment was made, and execution issued thereon to be enforced by sale of such real estate in the manner provided for a sale on execution of real estate attached on original writs; provided, that in making said sale, the officer shall follow the procedure in selling and conveying and there shall be the same rights of redemption as are provided in the Maine Revised Statutes-of-1954, chapter-91-A,-section-87,-as-enacted-by-the-public-laws-of-1955, chapter-399,-section-1, Title 36, chapter 105.

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Sec. 5. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §24, as amended by P&SL 1981, c. 44, §§2 and 3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 24. Lien for payment of rates. There shall be a lien on real estate served or benefited by the sewers of the district to secure the payment of rates established and due under section 18 which shall take precedence of all other claims on such real estate, excepting only claims for taxes. Real estate for the purposes of this act shall have the same definition as given in the Revised-Statutes-of-1954, chapter-91-A, section-4, as enacted by section-1-of-chapter-399-of-the-public-laws-of-1955-and-as amended Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 551.

The treasurer of the district shall have full and complete authority and power to collect the rates, tolls, rents and other charges established under section 18 and the same shall be committed to him the treasurer. The treasurer may, after demand for payment, sue in the name of the district in an action of assumpsit for any rate, toll, rent or other charge remaining unpaid in any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to other methods established by law for the collection of rates, tolls, rents and other charges, and without waiver of the right to sue for the same as-aforesaid, the lien hereby created may be enforced in the following manner. The treasurer, when a rate, toll, rent or other charge has been committed to him the treasurer for collection may, after the expiration of 3 months and within one year after date when the same became due and payable, in the case of a person resident in the district give, or cause to be given to such person, or leave or cause to be left, at his the resident's last and usual place of abode, or give by registered or certified mail addressed to his the resident's last known address, a notice in writing signed by the treasurer stating the amount of such rate, toll, rent or other charge, describing the real estate upon which the lien is claimed, and stating that a lien is claimed on said real estate to secure the payment of said rate, toll, rent or other charge and demanding within 30 days after the service of such notice payment as-aforesaid be made. In the case of a nonresident of the district, the aferesaid notice shall be given by registered mail addressed to his the nonresident's last known address or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the district once a week for 2 successive weeks, and shall demand

payment within 30 days after the mailing thereof of the notice or the first publication of notice thereof-as-aforesaid. expiration of said period of 30 days and within one year thereafter after the date the charge became due and payable, the treasurer may record in the registry of deeds of Lincoln County, a certificate signed by the treasurer setting forth the amount of such rate, toll, rent or other charge, describing the real estate on which the lien is claimed and stating that a lien is claimed on the real estate to secure payment of said rate, toll, rent or other charge and that a notice and demand for payment of the same has been given or made in accordance with the provisions of this section and stating further that such rate, toll, rent or other charge remains unpaid. At the time of the recording of any such certificate in the registry of deeds as-heretefore-provided, the treasurer shall file in the office of the district a true copy of such certificate and shall mail a true copy thereef by registered mail to each record holder of any mortgage on said real estate, addressed to such record holder at his the record holder's last and usual place of abode. The fee to be charged by the district to the ratepayer for the notice and filing and for discharge of paid liens shall not exceed the cost to the district of those actions.

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The filing of the aferesaid certificate in the registry of deeds as-aforesaid-shall-be-deemed-to-create,-and-shall-create, creates a mortgage on the real estate therein described in the certificate to the district which shall have priority over all other mortgages, liens, attachments and encumbrances of nature, except liens, attachments and claims for taxes, and shall give gives to the district all the rights usually possessed by mortgages, except that the district as mortgagee shall does not have any right to possession of said real estate until the right of redemption hereinafter-provided-fer-shall-have has expired. If the mortgage, together with interest and costs, shall has not have been paid within 18 months after the date of filing of said certificate in the registry of deeds as -herein-provided, the mortgage shall-be-deemed-to-have-been is foreclosed and the right of redemption to-have expired. The filing of the certificate in the registry of deeds shall-be is sufficient notice of the existence of the mortgage hereby-provided-for. In the event that said rate, toll, rent or other charge, with interest and costs, as-aforesaid,--shall-be is paid within the period of redemption herein--provided---for, the treasurer of the district shall discharge the mortgage in the same manner as is provided for discharge of real estate mortgages.

Sec. 6. P&SL 1963, c. 146, §28 is enacted to read:

Sec. 28. Authorized to acquire property and franchises of Waldoboro Water Company. The district, through its trustees, may acquire by purchase the entire plant, properties, franchises, rights and privileges owned by the Waldoboro Water Company,

including all lands, waters, water rights, reservoirs, pipes, machinery, fixtures, hydrants, tools and all apparatus and appliances used or usable in supplying water in the area of the district. This district may acquire by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, a right expressly delegated to the district for that purpose, the entire plant, properties, franchises, rights and privileges, except cash assets and accounts receivable, owned by the Waldoboro Water Company, including all lands, waters, water rights, dam structures, reservoirs, pipes, machinery, fixtures, hydrants, tools and all apparatus and appliances used or usable in supplying water in the area of the district, and if and when so acquired, the district, in addition to the powers conferred by this Act, is entitled to exercise all rights, privileges and franchises of the Waldoboro Water Company.

In exercising the right of eminent domain under this Act, the trustees shall file with the district clerk a condemnation order that includes a detailed description of the property interests to be taken, the name or names of the owner or owners of record as far as can be reasonably determined and the amount of damages determined by the trustees to be just compensation for the property or interest taken. The trustees shall then serve on the owner or owners of record a copy of the condemnation order and a check in the amount of the damages awarded and record a certified copy of the condemnation order in the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds. In the event of multiple ownership, the check may be served on any one of the owners. The title passes to the district upon service of the order of condemnation and check, or upon recordation in accordance with this Act, whichever occurs first. Acceptance and negotiation of the check do not bar an appeal under this Act.

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Any person aggrieved by the determination of the damages awarded to owners of property or interests under this Act may, within 60 days after service of the condemnation order and check, appeal to the Superior Court of Lincoln County. The court shall determine damages by a verdict of its jury or, if all parties agree, by the court without a jury or by a referee or referees, and shall render judgment for just compensation, with interest when due, and for costs in favor of the party entitled to just compensation. Appeal from the decision of the Superior Court may be had to the Law Court, as in other civil actions.

Sec. 7. Referendum; effective date. Sections 3 and 6 of this Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of the Waldoboro Utility District at an election to be called and held for the purpose by December 31, 1991. The election must be called by the municipal officers and must be held at the regular voting places. The election must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to the municipal elections; except that the board of registration is not required to prepare nor the town clerks to post a new list of voters, and for this purpose

32	STATEMENT OF FACT
30	orando de la como calento de la como en el como de la participación de la como de la como de la como de la com La como de la como del
28	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.
26	elections must be filed by the town clerk with the Secretary of State.
24	municipal officers of the town and due certificates of the
	The results of the elections must be declared by the
22	not prevent subsequent elections.
20	registered voters of the district, but failure of approval does
18	legal voters voting at the election, but only if the total number of votes cast for and against its acceptance exceeds 10% of the
7.0	purposes immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the
16	Sections 3 and 6 of this Act shall take effect for all
14	the Waldoboro Water Company?"
14	"Shall the Waldoboro Utility District purchase the assets of
12	single expenditure in excess of \$200,000?"
10	increased to \$3,000,000 and a district vote required for any
8	"Shall the debt limit of the Waldoboro Utility District be
	following questions:
6	the subject matter of sections 3 and 6 of this Act to the
4	board to verify the corrections of the lists and to complete and close their records of the session. The town clerk shall reduce
	devoted to registration of voters and the last day to enable the
2	days next preceding the elections, th first and 2nd days to be
	the board of registration must be in session on the 3 working

This bill changes the name of the Waldoboro Sewer District to the Waldoboro Utility District and also gives the trustees authority to purchase the assets of the Waldoboro Water Company.