

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. of S.

L.D. 771

(Filing No. H-407)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 252, L.D. 771, Bill, "An Act to Enhance Voters' Rights in Budget Approval of School Districts"

Amend the amendment by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1303, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

3. Requested articles. If requested by a written petition of at least 10% of the number of voters voting for the gubernatorial candidates in the last gubernatorial election in each municipality within the district, the board of directors shall place specific articles, not in conflict with existing state statutes, in the warrants for consideration at the next annual district budget meeting. To be included in the warrant a petition shall must be received by the board of directors at least 15 30 days before the date set for the budget meeting. When placed on the warrant, the articles shall must be considered before action relating to the appropriation of money for the operation of schools.'

Further amend the amendment in section 5 by inserting at the end the following: 'If a district fails to adopt a complete budget at a district budget meeting held in accordance with sections 1303 and 1304, the subsequent district meeting must be held within 30 days. If a district fails to adopt a complete budget by a budget referendum held in accordance with section 1305, the subsequent district meeting must be held within 45 days if the board of directors conducts the meeting in accordance with section 1305, or within 30 days if the board of directors conducts the meeting in accordance with sections 1303 and 1304.'

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Further amend the amendment by inserting after section 6 the following:

'Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §1310, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

3. **Installments.** The board of directors shall notify the member municipalities of the monthly installments that will become payable during the fiscal year. If a complete budget has not been adopted by the voters by July 1st, the member municipalities shall pay monthly installments to the district based on the amount automatically considered to be the budget that is approved for expenses under section 1308 until a complete budget is approved by the voters.

Further amend the amendment by renumbering the sections to read consecutively.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment changes the school administrative district budget process in the following ways.

1. It requires that a petition to place specific articles on the warrant be received 30 days before the date set for a budget meeting. Current law requires that a petition be accepted up to 15 days before the budget meeting. Under the 15-day provision districts do not have time to print ballots and distribute them to member municipalities 14 days prior to the budget meeting as required by law.

2. It requires that a subsequent vote on a school administrative district budget or portion of the budget that has failed must be held within 30 days or 45 days of the most recent vote. If the vote will occur at a district budget meeting held at a single place in the district, the vote must occur within 30 days. If the vote will occur by referendum within each member municipality of the district, the vote must occur within 45 days.

3. It requires that if a complete budget has not been adopted by July 1st, municipalities within the district must pay a monthly installment to the district based on the budget considered to be the budget at the time.

Filed by Rep. Carroll of Gray
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