

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1940

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1387, L.D. 1940, Bill, "An Act to Standardize Poll Opening Times"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

**'Mandate preamble.** This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**'FISCAL NOTE**

This bill requires certain municipalities to open their polling place earlier on election day. This requirement represents a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. Forty-seven municipalities have a population of 6,000 or more. Of the 47, 22 municipalities are not in compliance. The estimated cost of this mandate for these municipalities is \$1,938 per election (General and Primary), an average of \$88.10 per election for each municipality. The remaining 25 municipalities, although in compliance, are also eligible for reimbursement for this state mandate. The estimated costs for these municipalities is \$12,500 per election based on average cost of \$250 per hour per municipality.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

The total statewide costs to operate these polling places during the proposed opening times is estimated at approximately \$14,438 in fiscal year 1998-99. Ninety percent of these additional costs is \$12,995. In fiscal year 1999-2000, there will be a Primary Election in addition to the General Election increasing the estimated cost of this state mandate to \$28,876.

Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the two-thirds vote of all members elected to each House exempts the State from the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional local costs.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment adds a mandate preamble to the original bill.

This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.