

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 335

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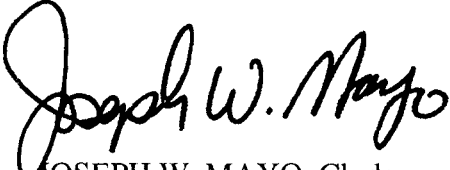
H.P. 231

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

**An Act to Require Reimbursement to Municipalities for the Cost of State  
Special Elections.**

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Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and  
Representatives: CIANCHETTE of South Portland, JACOBS of Turner, LOVETT of  
Scarborough, MAYO of Bath, MENDROS of Lewiston, MUSE of South Portland,  
SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, Senator: AMERO of Cumberland.

2  
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §631, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161,  
5 §6, is amended to read:

6 **1. Procedure.** The municipal officers may divide a town or  
7 ward into convenient voting districts after public notice and  
8 hearing held at least 60 days before any election. After the  
9 hearing, the municipal officers ~~must~~ shall prepare a certificate  
10 defining the limits of each district. They ~~must~~ shall file the  
11 certificate with the clerk who shall record it. The clerk shall  
12 post an attested copy of the certificate in a conspicuous, public  
13 place in the town or ward, and shall publish it in at least one  
14 newspaper having general circulation in the municipality at least  
15 30 days before election day. The clerk shall file an attested  
16 copy of the certificate with the Secretary of State. Voting  
17 districts, once established, may not be consolidated into a  
18 lesser number of districts ~~by following the same procedure for~~  
19 ~~any class of election. Voting districts may be established or~~  
20 ~~consolidated under this section for all or only certain classes~~  
21 ~~of elections.~~ If the municipal officers determine that there is  
22 no building within a voting district ~~which~~ that is suitable for a  
23 voting place, as described in section 627, the municipal officers  
24 may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, establish  
25 a voting place outside the voting district in a suitable building  
26 ~~which~~ that is as close as possible to the voting district and as  
27 convenient as possible to the voters of the voting district.

28 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §631, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

29 **1-A. Voting places.** In each voting district, all  
30 designated polling places must be open for all classes of  
31 elections.

32 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §633**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is  
33 amended to read:

34 **§633. Election expenses**

35 Except for the added expenses incurred by a municipality  
36 under section 632, each municipality shall pay for the expense it  
37 incurs in calling, holding and reporting the results of an  
38 election. The State shall pay for election expenses incurred as  
39 a result of a statewide special election. The State shall pay  
40 for other election expenses incurred as a result of the  
41 performance by state officials of their duties under this Title.

42 **SUMMARY**

43 This bill requires the State to reimburse municipalities for  
44 expenses incurred as a result of a statewide special election and  
45 requires that all designated polling places in a voting district  
46 be open for all elections.