

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 700

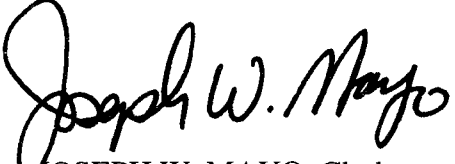
H.P. 493

House of Representatives, January 26, 1999

An Act to Amend Voting Procedures for School Unions.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot.

2 **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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6 **Whereas,** the current method of conducting votes by union
school committees that is weighted in proportion to the general
population of the towns in the school union sometimes results in
8 unfairness; and

10 **Whereas,** weighting school union voting in proportion to the
school enrollment of the towns in a school union would result in
12 a more equitable method of voting; and

14 **Whereas,** it is necessary to immediately amend the voting
process for school unions to correct this inequity as soon as
16 possible; and

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

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

26 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSa §1902, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1981, c.
693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

28 **2. Method of voting.** The method of voting shall-be is as
30 follows.

32 A. The votes of the individual members of the union
committee shall must be cast on a weighted basis in
34 proportion to the population average annual student count
for the preceding year of the unit represented as compared
36 with the total population average annual student count for
the preceding year of the units comprising the union
38 committee.

40 B. To become effective, all actions of the union committee
shall must be approved by a vote of units representing more
42 than 1/2 of the population-comprising average annual student
count of all the units which that make up the union
44 committee.

46 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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4 This bill changes the voting procedures for school union
6 committees from one based on the population of the school units
 comprising the union to one based on student enrollment within
 the school units.