

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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### STATE OF MAINE SENATE 121ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 308, L.D. 967, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Charter of the Madawaska Water District"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

**Whereas, in order for the Madawaska Water District to have sufficient opportunity to hold the referendum required by this legislation, which is to be held prior to January 1, 2004, this legislation needs be passed as an emergency; and**

**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,**

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

**Sec. 1. P&SL 1953, c. 17, §13-A is enacted to read:**

**Sec. 13-A. Readiness-to-serve charges. The district shall assess readiness-to-serve charges against properties abutting on or accessible to the water lines of the district that on or after January 1, 2004 become improved with new residential or**

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commercial structures requiring systems for the disposal of sewage and wastewater, including, but not limited to, sewer service from the Town of Madawaska, but that do not connect to the district's water lines. The district shall assess readiness-to-serve charges at the district's minimum rate under the district's rate schedule.

**Sec. 2. Emergency clause; referendum; effective date.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters within the Madawaska Water District at a referendum within the district held prior to January 1, 2004. The referendum must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections, except the registrar of voters is not required to prepare or the clerk to post a new list of voters. For the purpose of registering voters, the registrar of voters must be in session on the regular work day preceding the election. The content of this Act must be reduced to the following question:

"Do you favor permitting the Madawaska Water District to charge readiness-to-serve charges against properties abutting on or accessible to the water lines of the district that on or after January 1, 2004 are improved with new residential or commercial structures requiring systems for the disposal of sewage and wastewater but that do not connect to district's water lines?"

The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion on the question.

The results must be declared by the trustees of the Madawaska Water District and due certificate of the results filed by the clerk with the Secretary of State.

This Act takes effect immediately upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters voting at the election.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment authorizes a referendum within the Madawaska Water District to allow it to charge readiness-to-serve charges against properties abutting on or accessible to the water lines of the district that on or after January 1, 2004 are improved with new residential or commercial structures requiring systems for the disposal of sewage and wastewater but that do not connect to district's water lines.