



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1581

S.P. 539

In Senate, April 16, 2003

Resolve, Authorizing Municipalities To Consolidate Voting Districts for Special Elections on Bond Issues Held in 2003

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Senator MAYO of Sagadahoc for the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2003, S.P. 526 and printed under Joint Rule 401.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the 2 Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 4 Whereas, it is possible that a special election for bond 6 issues may be called before the expiration of that 90-day period; and 8 Whereas, voter turnout is often low for a special election; 10 and Whereas, it is costly for municipalities to staff all voting 12 places during an election; and 14 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of 16 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and 18 safety; now, therefore, be it 20 Sec. 1. Municipalities authorized to consolidate voting districts. 22 **Resolved:** That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 631, a municipality may consolidate voting districts for the purpose of holding a special election on bond 24 issues in 2003. A municipality that chooses to consolidate voting districts shall hold a public hearing on the planned 26 consolidation. Plans to consolidate districts must be submitted to the Secretary of State at least 35 days prior to the special 28 election. 30 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved. 32 34 **SUMMARY** 36 This resolve authorizes municipalities to consolidate voting districts for the purpose of holding a special election on bond 38 issues in 2003. 40 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED** 42 (See attached) 44

Approved: 04/15/03 mac



121st Maine Legislature Office of Fiscal and Program Review

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> LR 2105(01) Fiscal Note for Committee Bill Sponsor: Legal and Veterans Affairs Pursuant to Joint Order Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential Municipal Savings