

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2004

Legislative Document

No. 1710

S.P. 642

In Senate, December 17, 2003

An Act To Allow Towns To Consolidate for the Purpose of Establishing a Voting Place

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 16, 2003. Referred to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STANLEY of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth and
Senator: BRYANT of Oxford, Representatives: JACKSON of Fort Kent, PARADIS of
Frenchville.

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §634 is enacted to read:

§634. Voting places; consolidated towns

1. Voting places in consolidated towns. The procedure for establishing a voting place for towns that consolidate for voting purposes is as follows.

A. A group of towns with each town having a population of 4,000 or less may consolidate to provide one voting place for all county, state and national elections, including primary elections, where all residents of the consolidated towns entitled to vote in their respective towns may cast their ballots under conditions provided in this section.

B. Upon receipt of a petition signed by at least 10 residents qualified to vote from each of the towns proposing to consolidate under this section, the town officials from the consolidating towns shall select a town to provide a voting place.

C. The ballot clerk of the town where the consolidated voting place is located shall prepare a separate list of eligible voters from the towns consolidating pursuant to paragraph A and shall select for the consolidated voting place from the residents of all the towns:

(1) At least 2 ballot clerks representing the respective major political parties; and

(2) A warden.

D. Elections at a consolidated voting place created pursuant to paragraph A must be conducted pursuant to this chapter.

2. Election expenses. The expenses incurred in the conduct of an election held under this section are shared equally among the consolidated towns.

3. Notice to Secretary of State. The ballot clerk of each town shall notify the Secretary of State of the town's consolidation under this section and the town and voting place where the respective towns will hold the election. The ballot clerk shall also notify the Secretary of State if the voting place in that town has been discontinued. Notification must be made at least 120 days before the election in which the consolidation will be effective.

2

SUMMARY

4

6

This bill allows towns with populations of 4,000 or less to consolidate for the purposes of establishing one voting place for all the consolidated towns.