

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 698

H.P. 481

House of Representatives, February 24, 2009

**An Act To Allow School Budget Validation Referenda To Be Held
on a Saturday**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative WEAVER of York.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CUSHING of Hampden, EDGECOMB of Caribou, HAYES of Buckfield, HILL of York, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, LANGLEY of Ellsworth, PINKHAM of Lexington Township, RUSSELL of Portland.

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

3 Whereas, current law prohibits a municipality from conducting a school budget
4 validation referendum on a Saturday; and

5 Whereas, many municipalities schedule and hold referendum questions on a
6 Saturday as a matter of custom or historical tradition; and

7 Whereas, the residents of a municipality and their elected leaders are most qualified
8 to determine which day of the week may be best suited for holding any referendum; and

9 Whereas, in some cases the provisions of a municipal charter may effectively
10 require a municipal referendum to be conducted on a Saturday; and

11 Whereas, the 2009 school budget validation referenda around the State will be
12 conducted prior to the adjournment of this Legislature; and

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

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

18 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1486, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 668, §19, is
19 further amended to read:

20 **2. Validation referendum procedures.** The budget validation referendum must be
21 held on or before the 14th calendar day following the scheduled date of the regional
22 school unit budget meeting. The referendum may not be held on a ~~Saturday~~, Sunday or
23 legal holiday. The vote at referendum is for the purpose of approving or rejecting the
24 total regional school unit budget approved at the regional school unit budget meeting.
25 The regional school unit board shall provide printed information to be displayed at
26 polling places to assist voters in voting. That information is limited to the total amounts
27 proposed by the regional school unit board for each cost center summary budget category
28 article, the amount approved at the regional school unit budget meeting, a summary of the
29 total authorized expenditures and, if applicable because of action on an article under
30 section 15690, subsection 3, paragraph A, a statement that the amount approved at the
31 regional school unit budget meeting includes locally raised funds that exceed the
32 maximum state and local spending target pursuant to section 15671-A, subsection 5.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
34 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill allows school budget validation referendum votes for regional school units to be held on Saturday.