

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 90

S.P. 38

In Senate, January 17, 2017

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Rumford Water District

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Rumford and
Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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,** Private and Special Law 2015, chapter 14 revised the charter of the
4 Rumford Water District and allows the district to contract with any person, district,
5 utility, corporation or municipality to carry out the purposes of the district; and

6 **Whereas,** this legislation amends the charter of the district to require that all
7 commercial contracts for water extraction or water resale be decided by a vote of the
8 voters of the district; and

9 **Whereas,** it is imperative that these charter changes take effect as soon as possible
10 to avoid disruption in the operations of the district; and

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

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

16 **Sec. 1. P&SL 2015, c. 14, §10** is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 10. Authority to make and assume contracts.** The district, through its
18 trustees, in order to carry out the purposes of its incorporation, may contract with any
19 person, district, utility, corporation or municipality, except that a contract for water
20 extraction or water resale is subject to a vote by the voters of the district conducted
21 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2528 for each proposed
22 contract. The results of a vote conducted under this section are valid only if the total
23 number of votes cast is at least 60% of the number of votes cast for Governor by the
24 voters of the district at the last gubernatorial election.

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

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires that all proposed commercial contracts of the Rumford Water
29 District for water extraction or water resale be subject to a vote by the voters of the
30 district. For the vote to be valid, the total number of votes cast must be at least 60% of
31 the number of votes cast for Governor by the voters of the district at the last gubernatorial
32 election.