

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1088

S.P. 349

In Senate, March 22, 2021

**An Act To Allow Nonresidents Who Own Property To Speak at
Town Meetings on Local Issues**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2524, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2
3 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is
4 further amended to read:

5 A. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak
6 before that person is recognized by the moderator. A person who is ~~not~~ neither a voter
7 in the town nor the owner of residential real property in the town may speak at the
8 meeting only with the consent of 2/3 of the voters present. For the purposes of this
9 paragraph, a mortgagor of residential real property is deemed the owner of that
10 residential real property.

11 (1) If any person, after a command for order by the moderator, continues to act in
12 a disorderly manner, the moderator may direct that person to leave the meeting. If
13 the person refuses to leave, the moderator may have that person removed by a
14 constable and confined until the meeting is adjourned.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows a nonresident individual who owns residential real property in a town
17 to speak at a town meeting to the same extent as a resident of the town.