

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SESSION 1920

SENATE

NO. 1

In Senate, August 31, 1920.

Introduced by Mr. Davies of Cumberland under suspension
of the rules.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY

AN ACT to provide for the Registration of Women prior to
the State and National Elections of the Year 1920.

Whereas, by the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to
the Constitution of the United States, proclaimed by the State
Department of the United States on August 26th, 1920, every
female citizen of this state has the right to vote at any Na-
tional, State, City or Town election, if qualified except as to
sex as required by the constitution and laws of this State, and
under existing registration laws, many women of this State
otherwise qualified, cannot be registered prior to the State and
National elections to be held in the year one thousand nine
hundred and twenty, and will be prevented from exercising

their constitutional right to vote, whereby an emergency exists, and the enactment of additional registration laws providing for the registration of female voters prior to the next State and National elections is an emergency measure, immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, now therefore,

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

Section 1. In addition to the session of the municipal officers now authorized by Section 41, Chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes, the municipal officers of every town containing less than five hundred voters shall be in session on the four secular days next preceding the second Monday of September, one thousand nine hundred and twenty, and also the four secular days preceding the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty for the purpose of receiving applications of male and female persons claiming a right to vote. In all towns having five hundred or more registered voters and in all cities having less than three thousand inhabitants the municipal officers shall receive applications of male and female persons claiming a right to vote on the six secular days next preceding the second Monday of September, one thousand nine hundred and twenty, and also on the six secular days preceding the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty. In cities of three thousand and less than nineteen thousand inhabitants and in cities of not less than thirty-five thou-

21 sand inhabitants, the Boards of Registration shall be in
22 session from nine o'clock in the forenoon to one o'clock in
23 the afternoon and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the
24 afternoon and from seven o'clock to nine o'clock in the af-
25 ternoon on each of the ten secular days next preceding the
26 second Monday of September, one thousand nine hundred
27 and twenty, on the first eight to receive evidence touching
28 the qualifications of male and female voters therein, to reg-
29 ister those entitled thereto, and to revise and correct the
30 voting list, and on the latter two of said secular days to
31 verify the correctness of said lists and to complete and
32 close the records of said session. The Boards of Registra-
33 tion in cities of three thousand and less than nineteen thou-
34 sand inhabitants shall also be in session for the purpose of
35 registration of male and female voters on the ten secular
36 days next prior to the national election of one thousand
37 nine hundred and twenty, during the hours fixed by this
38 section for registration in such cities for the State election.
39 In cities of not less than nineteen thousand and less than
40 thirty-five thousand inhabitants, the Boards of Registra-
41 tion shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon to
42 one o'clock in the afternoon and from three o'clock to five
43 o'clock in the afternoon and from seven o'clock to nine
44 o'clock in the afternoon on each of the twenty-five secular
45 days next prior to the presidential election in one thousand
46 nine hundred and twenty, on the first eighteen of said sec-

47 ular days to receive evidence touching the qualification of
48 voters therein, to register those entitled thereto and to re-
49 vise and correct the voting list and on the latter seven of
50 said secular days to verify the correctness of said lists and
51 to complete and close the records of said session. In all
52 cities of three thousand or more and less than thirty-five
53 thousand inhabitants on the last of said secular days herein
54 provided, at eleven o'clock in the afternoon certified copies
55 of said voting lists shall be delivered to the clerks of said
56 cities and receipts taken therefor, except that on the last
57 of said days devoted to registration, the session of the
58 Board shall close at nine o'clock in the afternoon and no
59 name shall be added to or stricken from said lists there-
60 after. In cities of not less than thirty-five thousand in-
61 habitants the Board of Registration shall close its session
62 on the last of the secular days devoted to registration prior
63 to the National election of one thousand nine hundred and
64 twenty at five o'clock in the afternoon, and shall forthwith
65 verify the correctness of the lists and complete and close
66 the records of said session relating to said National elec-
67 tion, and on or before eleven o'clock in the afternoon of
68 the secular day preceding said National election deliver
69 certified copies of said voting lists to the clerks of said
70 cities and take receipts therefor. In cities of not less than
71 nineteen thousand and less than thirty-five thousand inhab-
72 itants, the Boards of Registration shall be in session from
73 nine o'clock in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon

74 and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon and
75 from seven o'clock to nine o'clock in the afternoon on each
76 of the twelve secular days next prior to the next State
77 election, on the first ten of said secular days to receive evi-
78 dence touching the qualification of voters therein, to regis-
79 ter those entitled thereto and to revise and correct the vot-
80 ing lists and on the latter two of said secular days to verify
81 the correctness of said lists and to complete and close the
82 records of said session. Boards of Registration are author-
83 ized to remain in session for registration of voters on any
84 day except the last day of each session prior to the next
85 State and National election for more hours than otherwise
86 prescribed if in their judgment it may be necessary. With-
87 out limitation upon the right of female citizens to register
88 for any future National, State, City or Town election it is
89 hereby further provided that Boards of Registration in cit-
90 ies of not less than nineteen thousand and less than thirty-
91 five thousand inhabitants shall register female voters at any
92 session held prior to the State election of one thousand nine
93 hundred and twenty.

Sect. 2. Municipal officers of towns and of cities having
2 less than three thousand inhabitants and the chairman of
3 the several Boards of Registration in all other cities may at
4 the special registration sessions hereby authorized and at
5 the regular sessions held for the registration of voters for
6 the next State and National elections employ such clerks and
7 assistants as may be necessary and may further in each

8 town and city appoint such number of deputies as said mu-
9 nicipal officers and said chairman shall deem necessary, an
10 equal number of deputies to be appointed from each of the
11 dominant political parties, who shall have the same powers
12 and duties as the municipal officers or members of the
13 Board of Registration, subject, however, to the supervision
14 and control of the municipal officers and Board of Regis-
15 tration in the respective town or city. All municipal officers,
16 boards of registration, deputies, assistants and clerks shall
17 at the special registration session held under this act be
18 governed in the performance of their duties by the pro-
19 visions of Chapter five of the Revised Statutes and Acts
20 additional thereto and amendatory thereof, except in so far
21 as the same are modified, amended or superseded by this
22 Act. The compensation of such deputies, assistants and
23 clerks employed as herein provided shall be fixed by the
24 respective municipal officers or Boards or Registration,
25 shall not exceed the compensation received by such muni-
26 cipal officers or members of Boards of Registration and
27 shall be paid by the respective towns and cities.

Sect. 3. This act shall apply only to registration of voters
2 preceding the State and National elections to be held re-
3 spectively in September and November, one thousand nine
4 hundred and twenty.

Sect. 4. In view of the emergency expressed in the pre-
2 amble hereof this Act shall take effect when approved.