

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 134

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House of Representatives, February 17, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Granville of Parsonsfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to Authorize the Division of Towns Having Less than Four Thousand Inhabitants into Convenient Polling Places.

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

Section twelve of chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding at the end of said section the following paragraph, to wit:

'The municipal officers of any town having less than four thousand inhabitants may, sixty days before any election, divide the same into two or more polling districts, defining the limits thereof and designating the polling places for each district, by a writing under their hands to be filed with and

6 recorded by the town clerk, and attested copies thereof shall  
7 forthwith be posted by said clerk in not less than two public  
8 and conspicuous places in each of such districts, and shall  
9 be published in one or more newspapers, if any, printed in  
10 said town, thirty days at least before such election. Such  
11 order shall continue in force and apply to all except municipi-  
12 pal elections until altered or repealed by a subsequent order  
13 to be recorded and posted in like manner. Said municipal  
14 officers shall also, at least ten days before any election ap-  
15 point a presiding officer, who may be one of their number,  
16 and a clerk, for each such district other than the one con-  
17 taining the place where town meetings are held, in which  
18 district the election shall be conducted by the appropriate  
19 town officers as though no other districts existed; in other  
20 districts the officers appointed as above provided shall per-  
21 form the duties otherwise devolving upon the correspond-  
22 ing town officers, and election returns made up by them  
23 shall immediately be delivered to the town clerk, together  
24 with all ballots in their possession. All such officers shall  
25 be sworn. The municipal officers of any town so divided  
26 shall in the manner provided for by law prepare check lists  
27 of qualified voters for each of said polling districts, to be  
28 used as provided by law, and all provisions of law applicable  
29 to check lists for towns and wards shall apply to check lists  
30 for such polling place,' so that said section as amended shall  
31 read as follows:

'Sect. 12. The municipal officers, sixty days before any

2 election, may divide towns of more than four thousand in-  
3 habitants and wards of cities into convenient polling dis-  
4 tricts, which shall contain not less than three hundred voters  
5 in each, and on application of not less than twenty-five voters  
6 all of whom reside not less than six miles by road from the  
7 usual polling place, nor more than eight miles in an air line  
8 from each other, may establish in a town of less than four  
9 thousand inhabitants a separate polling district, which shall  
10 include the territory in which said petitioners reside, defining  
11 the limits thereof by a writing under their hands to be filed  
12 with and recorded by the city or town clerks; and attested  
13 copies thereof shall forthwith be posted by said clerks in  
14 not less than six public and conspicuous places in said town  
15 or ward, and the same shall be published in one or more  
16 of the newspapers, if any, printed in said city or town, thirty  
17 days at least before such election. They shall also ten days  
18 before any such election, appoint a warden and ward clerk  
19 for each polling place other than the one in which the  
20 wardens duly elected for such ward shall preside, who shall  
21 perform the same duties at elections as presiding officers  
22 and clerks of towns and wards now perform. Any vacancy  
23 occurring after appointment may be filled by the voters of  
24 said polling district as similar vacancies are now filled. All  
25 such officers shall be sworn. The board of registration of  
26 voters for any city in which a ward has been so divided,  
27 and the municipal officers of any town which has been so  
28 divided, shall in the manner now provided for by law, pre-

29 pare check lists of the qualified voters for each of said  
30 polling districts, in lieu of the check lists now provided by  
31 law for the entire town or ward, to be used as hereinafter  
32 provided, and all provisions of law applicable to check lists  
33 for towns and wards shall apply to check lists for such poll-  
34 ing district.

The municipal officers of any town having less than four  
2 thousand inhabitants may, sixty days before any election,  
3 divide the same into two or more polling districts, defining  
4 the limits thereof and designating the polling places for  
5 each district, by a writing under their hands to be filed  
6 with and recorded by the town clerk, and attested copies  
7 thereof shall forthwith be posted by said clerk in not less  
8 than two public and conspicuous places in each such dis-  
9 trict and shall be published in one or more newspapers, if  
10 any, printed in said town, thirty days at least before such  
11 election. Such order shall continue in force and apply to  
12 all except municipal elections until altered or repealed by  
13 a subsequent order to be recorded and posted in like man-  
14 ner. Said municipal officers shall also, at least ten days  
15 before any election appoint a presiding officer, who may be  
16 one of their number, and a clerk, for each such districts  
17 other than the one containing the place where town meet-  
18 ings are held, in which district the election shall be con-  
19 ducted by the appropriate town officers as though no other  
20 districts existed; in other districts, the officers appointed as  
21 above provided shall perform the duties otherwise devolving

22 upon the corresponding town officers, and election returns  
23 made up by them shall immediately be delivered to the town  
24 clerk, together with all ballots in their possession. All  
25 such officers shall be sworn. The municipal officers of any  
26 town so divided shall in the manner provided for by law  
27 prepare checks lists of qualified voters for each of said  
28 polling districts, to be used as provided by law, and all pro-  
29 visions of law applicable to check lists for towns and wards  
30 shall apply to check lists for such polling district.'