

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 711

H. P. 1654

House of Representatives, February 14, 1939.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jewett of Ripley.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Towns and Town Officers.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 5, §§ 2, 3, amended. Sections 2 and 3 of chapter 5 of the revised statutes, are hereby repealed and the following are enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 2. Meetings called by warrant. The first town meeting shall be called and notified in the manner prescribed in the act of incorporation; and if no mode is therein prescribed, by any justice of the peace in the same county. When a town once organized, is destitute of officers, a meeting may be called on application to such justice for his warrant for the purpose, made in writing by any 3 inhabitants thereof.'

'Sec. 3. First meeting, how called; when officers, called on application to justice of the peace. Every town meeting, except in the cases mentioned in sections 2 and 4 of this chapter, shall be called by a warrant signed by the selectmen, which shall notify and warn the inhabitants qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the time and place at which the meeting shall be held; and in distinct articles shall state the business to be acted upon at such meetings; and no other business shall be there acted upon. When by reason of non-acceptance, death, resignation, removal, insanity,

physical disability, or other causes, a majority of the selectmen do not remain in office a majority of those remaining in office may call a town meeting.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 5, § 4, amended. Section 4 of chapter 5 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 198 of the public laws of 1933, is hereby further amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 4. Selectmen refusing, meeting how called. If the selectmen unreasonably refuse to call a town meeting **for any lawful purpose within the powers of towns**, any number of legal voters therein, not less than 10% of the voters registered in the biennial state election then last past, but in no case less than 10 so registered voters, may apply, in writing, to a justice of the peace in the county, who may issue his warrant for calling such meeting. When any number of legal voters not less than 10% of the voters registered in the biennial state election then last past but in no case less than 10 so registered voters ~~in writing~~ request the selectmen, **in writing**, to insert a particular article in a warrant, they shall insert it in the next warrant issued, or shall call a special meeting for the consideration thereof.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 5, § 5, amended. Section 5 of chapter 5 of the revised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 5. Form of warrant. ~~In either case, the warrant shall specify the time and place at which the meeting shall be held, and in distinct articles shall state the business to be acted upon at such meeting, and no other business shall be there acted upon.~~ When a town meeting is called by a justice of the peace or by the selectmen, or any article is inserted in a warrant pursuant to the preceding section, they shall state in the warrant, in parenthesis immediately under the article requested, that it has been requested by 10 or more legal voters and set forth their names.'