

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1921

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session held in 1920.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE SEVENTY-NINTH
LEGISLATURE.

(SPECIAL SESSION)

1920

Chapter 265.

An Act to Provide for the Registration of Women Prior to the State and National Elections of the Year Nineteen Hundred and Twenty.

Emergency preamble. 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 twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and twenty, every female citizen of this state has the right to vote at any national, 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:

Sec. 1. Registration of voters; additional sessions of municipal officers and boards of registration to be held prior to September and November elections, 1920. In addition to the session of the munic-

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ipal officers now authorized by section forty-one, chapter five 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 thousand inhabitants, the boards of registration shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon and from seven o'clock to nine o'clock in the afternoon on each of the ten secular days next preceding the second Monday of September, one thousand nine hundred and twenty, on the first eight to receive evidence touching the qualifications of male and female voters therein, to register those entitled thereto, and to revise and correct the voting list, and on the latter two of said secular days to verify the correctness of said lists and to complete and close the records of said session. The boards of registration in cities of three thousand and less than nineteen thousand inhabitants shall also be in session for the purpose of registration of male and female voters on the ten secular days next prior to the national election of one thousand nine hundred and twenty, during the hours fixed by this section for registration in such cities for the state election. In cities of not less than nineteen thousand and less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants, the boards of registration shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon and from seven o'clock to nine o'clock in the afternoon on each of the twenty-five secular days next prior to the presidential election in one thousand nine hundred and twenty, on the first eighteen of said secular days to receive evidence touching the qualification of voters therein, to register those entitled thereto and to revise and correct the voting list and on the latter seven of said secular days to verify the correctness of said lists and to complete and close the records of said session. In all cities of three thousand or more and less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants on the last of said secular days herein

provided, at eleven o'clock in the afternoon certified copies of said voting lists shall be delivered to the clerks of said cities and receipts taken therefor, except that on the last of said days devoted to registration, the session of the board shall close at nine o'clock in the afternoon and no name shall be added to or stricken from said lists thereafter. In cities of not less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants the board of registration shall close its session on the last of the secular days devoted to registration prior to the national election of one thousand nine hundred and twenty at five o'clock in the afternoon, and shall forthwith verify the correctness of the lists and complete and close the records of said session relating to said national election, and on or before eleven o'clock in the afternoon of the secular day preceding said national election deliver certified copies of said voting lists to the clerks of said cities and take receipts therefor. In cities of not less than nineteen thousand and less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants the boards of registration shall be in session from nine o'clock in the forenoon to one o'clock in the afternoon and from three o'clock to five o'clock in the afternoon and from seven o'clock to nine o'clock in the afternoon on each of the twelve secular days next prior to the next state election, on the first ten of said secular days to receive evidence touching the qualification of voters therein, to register those entitled thereto and to revise and correct the voting lists and on the latter two of said secular days to verify the correctness of said lists and to complete and close the records of said session. Boards of registration are authorized to remain in session for registration of voters on any day except the last day of each session prior to the next state and national elections for more hours than otherwise prescribed if in their judgment it may be necessary. Without limitation upon the right of female citizens to register for any future national, state, city or town election it is hereby further provided that boards of registration in cities of not less than nineteen thousand and less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants shall register female voters at any session held prior to the state election of one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

Sec. 2. Municipal officers and chairmen of boards of registration authorized to employ clerks and assistants; may appoint deputies; procedure at special sessions; compensation of deputies, etc. Municipal officers of towns and of cities having less than three thousand inhabitants and the chairman of the several boards of registration in all other cities may at the special registration sessions hereby authorized and at the regular sessions held for the registration of voters for the next state and national elections employ such clerks and assistants as may be necessary and may further in each town and city appoint such number of deputies as said municipal officers and said chairman

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shall deem necessary, an equal number of deputies to be appointed from each of the dominant political parties, who shall have the same powers and duties as the municipal officers or members of the board of registration, subject, however, to the supervision and control of the municipal officers and board of registration in the respective town or city. All municipal officers, boards of registration, deputies, assistants and clerks shall at the special registration session held under this act be governed in the performance of their duties by the provisions of chapter five of the revised statutes and acts additional thereto and amendatory thereof, except in so far as the same are modified, amended or superseded by this act. The compensation of such deputies, assistants and clerks employed as herein provided shall be fixed by the respective municipal officers or boards of registration, shall not exceed the compensation received by such municipal officers or members of boards of registration and shall be paid by the respective towns and cities.

Sec. 3. Application of Act limited to September and November elections, 1920. This act shall apply only to registration of voters preceding the state and national elections to be held respectively in September and November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

Sec. 4. Emergency. In view of the emergency expressed in the preamble herein this act shall take effect when approved.

Approved August 31, 1920.

Chapter 266.

An Act to Increase the Number of Election Clerks for Each Polling Place.

Emergency preamble. 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 twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and twenty, the number of voters in each polling precinct of the state is greatly increased, and as a consequence the number of election officials should be immediately increased, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and additional legislation is 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:

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 7, § 13; relating to appointment of clerks for polling places, amended. Section thirteen of chapter seven of the revised statutes is hereby amended, by adding thereto the following words: 'Provided, however, the municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations may, on or before the eleventh day of September, nineteen hundred and