MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 5, 1990 to July 10, 1991

Chapters 1-590

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS OCTOBER 9, 1991

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company Augusta, Maine 1991

PUBLIC LAWS

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1991

mate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 270

H.P. 548 - L.D. 785

An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to the Election or Appointment of Assessors

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, municipalities are currently facing extreme hardships because of the present process of replacing assessors; and

Whereas, municipalities in these financially difficult times incur extra expense as a result of the present process of replacing assessors; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 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. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§5, ¶C,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:
 - C. When a town has not elected a full board of assessors, the selectmen shall serve as assessors as provided in Title 36, section 703. A selectman who is an assessor pursuant to this paragraph and Title 36, section 703 may resign the position of assessor without resigning the office of selectman. The position of assessor must then be filled by appointment pursuant to section 2602, subsection 2.
- Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§5, ¶G is enacted to read:
 - G. Notwithstanding any other law when a vacancy occurs on an elected board of assessors, the municipal officers shall fill that vacancy as provided in section 2602, subsection 2.
- **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §2602, sub-§§2 and 3,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, are further amended to read:

- 2. Vacancy in office other than selectman or school committee. When there is a vacancy in a town office other than that of selectman, assessor or school committee, the selectmen may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.
- 3. Vacancy in office of selectman. When there is a vacancy in the office of selectman or assessor, the selectmen may call a town meeting to elect a qualified person to fill the vacancy.
- **Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §703**, as amended by PL 1973, c. 620, §14, is further amended to read:

§703. Selectmen to act as assessors

If any municipality does not choose assessors and is not a part of a primary assessing area, the selectmen shall be are the assessors, and each of them shall must be sworn as an assessor. A selectman who is an assessor pursuant to this paragraph may resign the position of assessor without resigning the office of selectman. The position of assessor must then be filled by appointment pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2602, subsection 2.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

Effective June 14, 1991.

CHAPTER 271

H.P. 538 - L.D. 775

An Act to Improve the Disbursement of Wages to Municipal Employees

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

- **30-A MRSA §5603, sub-§2,** ¶**A,** as affected by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is amended to read:
 - A. Disburse money only on the authority of a warrant drawn for the purpose by the municipal officers;
 - (1) The municipal officers may adopt a written policy to permit the disbursement of employees wages and benefits when a disbursement warrant has been signed by one or more designated municipal officers. The policy must be filed with the town clerk and the municipal treasurer and renewed annually by vote of the municipal officers. No disbursements other than wages and benefits may be made until a majority of the municipal officers have signed the disbursement warrant;

See title page for effective date.