

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 6, 2000 to June 22, 2001

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

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Augusta, Maine
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§848. Ballot format for electronic tabulating systems

The Secretary of State shall furnish all ballot materials for all elections conducted under this Title. Ballots furnished for use with electronic tabulating systems must be arranged as nearly as practicable in accordance with the requirements for candidate ballots under section 601 and for referendum ballots under section 906. For ballots that are double sided, each side of the ballot must include a clearly printed message at the bottom of the ballot reminding the voter to mark both sides of the ballot.

Sec. 65. 21-A MRSA §852, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §104, is further amended to read:

5. Closing of polls. As soon as the polls have closed and the last qualified voter has voted, the warden shall proceed to count the ballots under the observation of the public. The warden shall run the official tally tapes off of tape from each electronic tabulating device and shall record the total votes from the tape on the tally sheet provided by the Secretary of State. One copy of the The official tally tape; must be signed by the warden; and one election clerk from each of the major parties and must be packed in a tamper-proof ballot box with the other election materials pursuant to section 698, subsection 2-A. The warden shall run an additional copy of the tally tape to provide to the clerk with the tally sheets and the return of votes cast and may run additional copies of the tally tape to post for public review. All unused ballots must be placed in a container and sealed packaged and sealed pursuant to section 698, subsection 2-B for return to the municipal clerk. The ballot box for the electronic voting device must be opened at the polling place; The regular counted ballots are placed in the tamper-proof ballot boxes and all unread or red-lined ballots requiring hand counting or ballots containing write-in votes or red-lines requiring hand counting that must be recorded on a write-in tally sheet are counted by the election clerks. The election clerks count in teams of 2, consisting of one election clerk from each of the major parties. If it appears that any ballot is damaged so that it can not be properly counted by the electronic tabulating device, the ballot must be counted manually. Once all of the hand counting has been completed, the election clerks shall complete the tally sheets and other election forms provided by the Secretary of State and return the ballots and other materials to the clerk packed pursuant to section 698, subsections 2-A and 2-B and the incoming voting list packed pursuant to section 698, subsection 3.

Sec. 66. 21-A MRSA §855-A, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 459, §108, is repealed.

Sec. 67. 21-A MRSA §856, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §109, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§856. Official returns

Copies of the election results must be open to the public as soon as the count is completed. The warden shall prepare the official return pursuant to section 711. The official return of each voting district is derived from the totals from the official tally tape, the totals from the hand-tallies of all red-lined or unread ballots and the tally sheets used to record all valid write-in votes. Once the clerk has made the attested copies of the precinct returns, if applicable, and the total municipality return and filed these attested copies with the Secretary of State, the return becomes the official return for that municipality.

Sec. 68. 21-A MRSA §906, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 581, §7, is amended to read:

1-A. Referendum questions on same ballot. Referendum questions may be printed on the same ballot ~~or ballot card~~ used for the election of state candidates or municipal elections, as determined by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 604-A. There must be a place on the ballot for the voter to designate the voter's choice. A referendum question must be arranged so that the voter may vote for or against it.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 311

S.P. 409 - L.D. 1353

An Act to Increase the Maine Turnpike Authority Bond Limit

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1968, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 646, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Turnpike revenue bonds. In addition to bonds outstanding pursuant to any other provision of this chapter, the authority may provide by resolution from time to time for the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds, including notes or other evidences of indebtedness or obligations defined to be bonds under this chapter, but not exceeding ~~\$170,000,000~~ \$210,000,000 in the principal amount at any one time outstanding exclusive of refundings, for any purpose described in section 1969, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.
