

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 2020 to March 30, 2021

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 28, 2021 to July 19, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 18, 2021

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

Augusta, Maine
2021

Sec. 9. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. Leadership political action committee. "Leadership political action committee" means a political action committee, other than a caucus political action committee under section 1053-C, that was directly or indirectly established by a current member of the Legislature or that is directly or indirectly maintained or controlled by a current member of the Legislature.

Sec. 10. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Separate segregated fund committee. "Separate segregated fund committee" means a political action committee described in subsection 5, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

Sec. 11. 21-A MRSA §1056-C is enacted to read:

§1056-C. Limits on contributions to leadership political action committees

1. Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating more in a calendar year than the amount that the individual may contribute to a legislative candidate in any election under section 1015, subsection 1.

2. Contributions by party committees and political action committees. Except as provided in paragraph A, a party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a political action committee and any other committee may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

A. A party committee under section 1013-A, subsection 3, a leadership political action committee, a separate segregated fund committee, a caucus political action committee and any other political action committee may make contributions to a leadership political action committee aggregating no more in a calendar year than the amount that the committee may contribute to a legislative candidate in any election under section 1015, subsection 2, paragraph A, except that the committee may not make any monetary contributions to a leadership political action committee using funds that derive, in whole or in part, from a business entity. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a separate segregated fund committee that receives nonmonetary contributions from a business entity under section 1056-D, subsection 2, paragraph A from making monetary contributions to a candidate within the limits described in this paragraph.

3. Contributions by business entities prohibited. A business entity may not make contributions to a leadership political action committee.

4. Business entity defined. For purposes of this section, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

Sec. 12. 21-A MRSA §1056-D is enacted to read:

§1056-D. Limits on contributions to separate segregated fund committees

1. Contributions by individuals. An individual may not make contributions to a separate segregated fund committee aggregating more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.

2. Contributions by business entities. Except as provided in paragraph A, a business entity may not make contributions to a separate segregated fund committee. For purposes of this subsection, "business entity" includes a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association, labor organization or other organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity.

A. The corporation, membership organization, cooperative or labor or other organization that established the separate segregated fund committee, referred to in this paragraph as "the parent entity," may provide the separate segregated fund committee with the use of offices, telephones, computers and similar equipment when that use does not result in additional cost to the parent entity.

Sec. 13. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2023.

Effective January 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 275

H.P. 1126 - L.D. 1522

An Act To Update and Eliminate References in Statute to Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §72, sub-§12, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 479, §1, is amended to read:

12. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor and aldermen or councillors of a city, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town and the assessors of a plantation.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §1742-B, first ¶, as amended by PL 2005, c. 489, §1, is further amended to read:

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, referred to as "the

bureau" in this section, shall provide written notification to the municipal manager or, in the absence of a manager, the ~~first selectman chair of the municipal officers~~ of a state construction project or public improvement within the boundaries of that municipality as soon as practicable after beginning the schematic design process. If a municipality intends to review and issue building permits on state construction projects and public improvements, the municipality must file a notice of intent with the bureau no later than 45 days following receipt of notification by the bureau of the state construction project or public improvement. Once the required notice is filed, the projects and improvements to state-owned or leased buildings must comply with municipal ordinances governing the construction and alteration of buildings, ~~provided that as long as~~ the municipal building code standards are as stringent as, or more stringent than, the code for state buildings. Prior to requesting bids, the bureau shall obtain or it shall require the project designer to obtain municipal approval of the project plans and specifications. Contractors and subcontractors shall obtain all necessary municipal building permits and the project must be subject to municipal inspections.

Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §2795, 2nd ¶ is amended to read:

When application is made for such license, said officers shall assign a time and place for its consideration, and give at least 14 days' public notice thereof, in such manner as they think proper, at the expense of the applicant. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the ~~selectmen~~ select boards of towns in granting or refusing such license may appeal therefrom within 30 days to the Superior Court held in said county, which court may appoint a committee of 3 disinterested persons, as is provided in relation to appeals from location of highways. Said committee ~~shall~~ must be sworn and ~~shall~~ give 14 days' notice of the time and place of their hearing to the parties interested, view the premises, hear the parties, and affirm, reverse or annul the decision of said ~~selectmen~~ select board, and their decision ~~shall be~~ is final. Pending such appeal from granting such license, the Superior Court may enjoin the erection of such building and engine.

Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §3205, 5th ¶ is amended to read:

The municipal officers of cities shall take action upon the acceptance hereof upon receipt of a petition therefor signed by at least 100 registered voters in said city and shall hold such public hearings thereon as they may ~~deem~~ consider necessary. The ~~selectmen~~ select board or other municipal officers of towns shall insert an article in the warrant for the next annual town meeting for the acceptance of the provisions of this section after receipt of a petition therefor signed by at least 25 registered voters of such town.

Sec. 5. 18-C MRSA §5-704, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

§5-704. Nomination of public guardian or conservator

1. Nomination of public guardian. Any person who is eligible to petition for appointment of a guardian under section 5-302, subsection 1, including the commissioner of any state department, the head of any state institution, the ~~overseers of the poor~~ board of overseers and the welfare director or health officer of any municipality, may nominate the public guardian.

2. Nomination of public conservator. Any person who is eligible to petition for appointment of a conservator under section 5-402, subsection 1, including the commissioner of any state department, the head of any state institution, the ~~overseer of the poor~~ board of overseers and the welfare director or health officer of any municipality, may nominate the public conservator.

3. Article applies to proceedings for determining appointment. Except as supplemented by section 5-705, the proceedings for determining the appointment of a public guardian or conservator are governed by the provisions of this Article for the appointment of guardians and conservators generally.

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§26, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 161, §6, is amended to read:

26. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor and aldermen or councillors of a city, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town and the assessors of a plantation.

Sec. 7. 23 MRSA §2103, first ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §27, is further amended to read:

When a highway survey has not been properly recorded or preserved or the termination and boundaries cannot be ascertained, the ~~select board of selectmen~~ or municipal officers of any municipality may use and control for highway purposes 1 1/2 rods on each side of the center of the traveled portion of such way.

Sec. 8. 23 MRSA §2701, as amended by PL 1985, c. 80, is further amended to read:

§2701. Powers and duties

The road commissioner, under the direction of a majority of the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board, ~~shall have~~ has charge of the repairs of all highways and bridges within the towns and ~~shall have~~ has authority to employ the necessary personnel and equipment and purchase material for the repair of highways and bridges. The road commissioner shall give bond to the satisfaction of the ~~selectmen~~ select board and ~~be~~ is responsible to ~~them~~ the select board for the expenditure of money and discharge of ~~his~~ the road commissioner's duties generally. In the absence of a statute, charter provision

or ordinance to the contrary, any decision involving the duties and responsibilities of the road commissioner ~~shall must~~ be made by a majority of the ~~selectmen mem-~~ bers of the select board, whose decision ~~shall be is~~ final. The road commissioner's compensation ~~shall must~~ be such sum as the legislative body votes annually. The road commissioner shall render to the ~~selectmen select~~ board monthly statements of ~~his the road commission-~~ er's expenditures and ~~may not receive no any~~ money from the treasury, except on the order of the ~~selectmen~~ select board.

If a majority of the ~~selectmen determine~~ members of the select board determines that a condition exists in any town way ~~which that~~ creates a hazard and renders the way unsafe for travelers with motor vehicles, the ~~selectmen select~~ board shall give written notice to the road commissioner of this condition and order ~~him the road~~ commissioner to eliminate it or take interim measures to protect the public within 24 hours. If the road commissioner fails to act as directed by the ~~selectmen select~~ board, a majority of the ~~selectmen members of the se-~~ lect board may enter contracts or take any other steps necessary to eliminate the safety hazard.

Sec. 9. 23 MRSA §2702 is amended to read:

§2702. Regular inspections

Road commissioners shall go over the roads in their towns, or cause it to be done, in April, May, June, August, September, October and November in each year, remove the loose obstructions to the public travel and, whenever so directed by the ~~selectmen select~~ board, remove all shrubbery and bushes growing within the limits of highways, not planted or cultivated therein for the purpose of profit or ornamentation, having care for the proper preservation of shade trees, and repair such defects as may occur from time to time, rendering travel dangerous, or they shall give notice of such defects to the municipal officers under a penalty of \$5 for neglect of such duty.

Sec. 10. 23 MRSA §2751 is amended to read:

§2751. Division by municipal officers

When a way is established on a line between towns, their municipal officers shall divide it crosswise and assign to each town its portion thereof by metes and bounds, which, within one year thereafter, being accepted by each town at a legal meeting, ~~shall render ren-~~ ders each town liable in the same manner as if the way were wholly within the town. When a division of it is not so made, the ~~selectmen select~~ board of either town may petition the county commissioners, who shall give notice by causing a copy of such application with their order thereon appointing a time and place of hearing to be served upon the clerk of each town 30 days, or by causing it to be published in some newspaper printed in the county for 3 weeks, previous to the time appointed, and after hearing the parties, they may make such division.

Sec. 11. 26 MRSA §935, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 294, §§2 and 3, is amended to read:

The board shall, upon the request of the Governor or the mayor of a city or the ~~selectman~~ select board of a town, investigate and report upon any labor controversy if, in its opinion, it threatens the public welfare.

Sec. 12. 26 MRSA §1043, sub-§28, as amended by PL 2011, c. 678, Pt. C, §8, is further amended to read:

28. Governmental entity. "Governmental entity" means the State of Maine, and its instrumentalities, political subdivisions and school administrative units as represented by their elected or appointed governing bodies and includes, without limitation, city and town councils, select boards of selectmen, boards of county commissioners, municipally owned and operated hospitals and administrative entities formed under Title 30-A, chapter 115. In the case of school administrative units, governing bodies include, without limitation, municipal school committees, school administrative district directors and community school district school committees. In the case of special purpose districts, governing bodies include, without limitation, boards of directors or trustees.

Sec. 13. 28-A MRSA §2, sub-§21, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 45, Pt. A, §4, is amended to read:

21. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor and aldermen or councillors of a city, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town and the assessors of plantations.

Sec. 14. 30-A MRSA §52, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

1. Municipal offices. ~~No A~~ A person holding the office of county commissioner may not at the same time hold either the office of mayor or assessor of a city or ~~the office of selectman~~ be a member of a select board or hold the office of assessor of a town.

Sec. 15. 30-A MRSA §722, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Municipal officials. "Municipal officials" means the mayor, aldermen, councillors or manager of a city and the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board, councillors or manager of a town located in Androscoggin County.

Sec. 16. 30-A MRSA §822, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Municipal officials. "Municipal officials" may include the mayor, aldermen, councillors or manager of

a city, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board, councillors or manager of a town and the assessors of a plantation located in Piscataquis County.

Sec. 17. 30-A MRSA §822, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

3. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the elected mayor, aldermen or councillors of a city, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town and the assessors of a plantation located in Piscataquis County.

Sec. 18. 30-A MRSA §852, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor, councillors or ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board.

Sec. 19. 30-A MRSA §892, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 204, §2, is amended to read:

4. Municipal officer; definition. The term "municipal officer," as it refers to the Oxford County Budget Advisory Committee in this section, means a ~~selectman~~ member of the select board or council member.

Sec. 20. 30-A MRSA §1605, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

8. Evaluation of need of dependents. The welfare director or the ~~board of overseers of the poor~~ of the municipality in which the prisoner's dependents reside, or the Department of Health and Human Services, shall at the request of the court investigate and report to the court the amount necessary for the support of the prisoner's dependents.

Sec. 21. 30-A MRSA §2001, sub-§10, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

A. The ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town; or

Sec. 22. 30-A MRSA §2521, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2521. Call of town meeting

Each town meeting shall ~~must~~ be called by a warrant. The warrant must be signed by a majority of the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board, except as follows.

1. First town meeting. The first town meeting shall ~~must~~ be called in the manner provided in the act of incorporation.

2. Majority of ~~selectmen~~ members of select board. If, for any reason, a majority of the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board do not remain in office, a majority of those remaining may call a town meeting.

3. Petition of 3 voters, if no ~~selectmen~~ select board. When a town, once organized, is without ~~selectmen~~ a select board, a notary public may call a meeting on the written petition of any 3 voters.

4. Petition by voters, if ~~selectmen~~ refuse select board refuses. If the ~~selectmen~~ select board unreasonably ~~refuse~~ refuses to call a town meeting, a notary public may call the meeting on the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10.

Sec. 23. 30-A MRSA §2524, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Moderator elected and sworn. The clerk, or in the clerk's absence a ~~selectman~~ member of the select board or constable, shall open the meeting by:

- A. Calling for the election of a moderator by written ballot;
- B. Receiving and counting the votes for moderator; and
- C. Swearing in the moderator.

Sec. 24. 30-A MRSA §2524, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

3. Moderator presides. As soon as the moderator has been elected and sworn, the moderator shall preside over and supervise the voting at the meeting and may appoint a deputy moderator to assist the moderator. If the moderator is absent or is unable to carry out the duties, the clerk, or in the clerk's absence a ~~selectman~~ member of the select board or constable, may call for the election of a deputy moderator to act in the absence of the moderator.

A. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak before that person is recognized by the moderator. A person who is not a voter in the town may speak at the meeting only with the consent of 2/3 of the voters present.

- (1) If any person, after a command for order by the moderator, continues to act in a disorderly manner, the moderator may direct that person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave, the moderator may have that

person removed by a constable and confined until the meeting is adjourned.

B. When a vote declared by the moderator is immediately questioned by at least 7 voters, the moderator shall make it certain by polling the voters or by a method directed by the municipal legislative body.

C. The moderator shall serve until the meeting is adjourned. The moderator is subject to the same penalties for neglect of official duty as other town officials.

Sec. 25. 30-A MRSA §2525, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

B. ~~Selectmen~~ Select board; and

Sec. 26. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

A. In order to hold ~~the office of selectman as a member of a select board~~, a person must be a voter in the town in which that person is elected.

Sec. 27. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

4. ~~Selectmen~~ Select boards and overseers. The following provisions apply to ~~selectmen~~ select boards and overseers.

A. A town may determine at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting whether 3, 5 or 7 will be elected to each board and their terms of office.

(1) Once the determination has been made, it stands until revoked at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

(2) If a town fails to fix the number, 3 ~~shall~~ must be elected. If a town fails to fix the term, it is for one year.

B. When others have not been elected, the ~~selectmen~~ select board shall serve as board of overseers ~~of the poor~~.

C. A ~~selectman~~ member of the select board may also serve as a member of the board of assessors.

D. A town, in electing ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board and overseers, may designate one of them as ~~chairman~~ chair of the board.

(1) If no person is designated as ~~chairman~~ chair, the board shall elect by ballot a ~~chairman~~ chair from its own membership, before assuming the duties of office. When no member

receives a majority vote, the clerk shall determine the ~~chairman~~ chair by lot.

E. If the town fails to fix the compensation of these officials at its annual meeting, they ~~shall be paid~~ are entitled to \$10 each per day for every day actually and necessarily employed in the service of the town.

Sec. 28. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§5, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) When a town has chosen a single assessor under this paragraph, the ~~selectmen~~ select board shall appoint the assessor for a term not exceeding 5 years.

Sec. 29. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§5, ¶C, as amended by PL 2003, c. 234, §1, is further amended to read:

C. When a town has not elected a full board of assessors, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board shall serve as assessors as provided in Title 36, section 703. A ~~selectman~~ member of the select board who is an assessor pursuant to this paragraph and Title 36, section 703 or any person who serves as both a ~~selectman~~ member of the select board and a tax assessor may resign the position of assessor without resigning ~~the office of selectman as a member of the select board~~. The position of assessor must then be filled by appointment pursuant to section 2602, subsection 2. A person elected to the State Legislature who resigns the position of assessor pursuant to this paragraph may continue to serve concurrently as ~~selectman~~ a member of the select board and member of the State Legislature. If a person who is serving in the State Legislature or in another office incompatible with the position of assessor resigns the position of assessor pursuant to this paragraph before that person has performed any duties as tax assessor, that person may not be deemed to have vacated the previously held position of State Legislator or other office that is incompatible with the office of assessor.

Sec. 30. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 1991, c. 235, is further amended to read:

B. The board of assessment review consists of 3 members and 2 alternates appointed by the ~~selectmen~~ select board. The municipality, when adopting such a board, may fix the compensation of the members. Initially, one member must be appointed for one year, one member for 2 years and one member for 3 years, and one of the alternates must be appointed for one year and one alternate for 2 years. Thereafter, the term of each new member or alternate is 3 years.

Sec. 31. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§7, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

B. A road commissioner appointed by the ~~selectmen~~ select board may be removed from office for cause by the ~~selectmen~~ select board.

Sec. 32. 30-A MRSA §2526, sub-§7, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

C. The select board of selectmen may act as a board of road commissioners.

Sec. 33. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Designation, number and terms of officials.

At the time of acceptance, the town shall determine, by a separate article in the warrant, which other officials are to be elected according to this section, and may determine the number and terms of ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board, assessors and overseers according to section 2526.

A. After the determination under this subsection, a town may not change the designation, number or terms of town officials, except at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Sec. 34. 30-A MRSA §2602, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1991, c. 270, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Vacancy in office other than ~~selectman~~ member of select board or school committee. When there is a vacancy in a town office other than ~~that of selectman~~ a vacancy on the select board or school committee, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

Sec. 35. 30-A MRSA §2602, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1991, c. 270, §3, is further amended to read:

3. Vacancy in office of ~~selectman~~ member of select board. When there is a vacancy ~~in the office of selectman on the select board~~, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may call a town meeting to elect a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

Sec. 36. 30-A MRSA §2631, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Government. The government of each town under this subchapter ~~shall~~ must consist of a town meeting, an elected select board of selectmen, an elected school committee, an appointed town manager and any

other officials and employees that may be appointed under this subchapter, general law or ordinance. Other town officials may be elected by ballot, including, but not limited to, moderator, assessors, board of overseers of the poor, clerk and treasurer. The election of officials at the last annual town meeting ~~shall~~ must require that those town offices continue to be filled by election until the town designates otherwise.

Sec. 37. 30-A MRSA §2632, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2632. Qualifications of town manager

1. Selection by board; professional qualification. The ~~selectmen~~ select board shall choose the town manager solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to actual experience in, or knowledge of, the duties of office under this subchapter.

2. Residency. The town manager need not be a resident of the town or State when appointed, but, while in office, may reside outside the town or State only with the approval of the select board of selectmen.

3. Prohibited offices. A town manager may not serve as moderator, ~~selectman~~ or be a member of the select board, assessor or member of the school committee.

Sec. 38. 30-A MRSA §2633, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Compensation. The ~~selectmen~~ select board shall determine the compensation of the town manager.

Sec. 39. 30-A MRSA §2633, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

3. Removal, suspension. The ~~selectmen~~ select board may remove or suspend the town manager for cause in accordance with the following procedures.

A. The ~~selectmen~~ select board shall file a written preliminary resolution with the town clerk stating the specific reasons for the proposed removal. A copy of that resolution ~~shall~~ must be delivered to the manager within 10 days of filing.

B. Within 20 days of receiving the resolution, the manager may reply in writing and request a public hearing.

C. Upon request for a public hearing, the ~~selectmen~~ select board shall hold one at least 10 days but not more than 30 days after the request is filed.

D. After the public hearing or at the expiration of the time permitted the manager to request the public hearing, if no such request is made, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may adopt or reject the resolution of removal.

E. The ~~selectmen~~ select board may suspend the manager from duty in the preliminary resolution, but the manager's salary may not be affected until the final resolution of removal has been adopted.

Sec. 40. 30-A MRSA §2634, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2634. Absence or disability of town manager

The town manager may designate a qualified administrative official of the town to perform the manager's duties during a temporary absence or disability, subject to confirmation by the ~~selectmen~~ select board. If the town manager does not make this designation, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may appoint a town official to perform the manager's duties during the absence or disability and until the manager returns or the disability ceases.

Sec. 41. 30-A MRSA §2635, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2635. Board of ~~selectmen~~ Select board to act as a body; administrative service to be performed through town manager; committees

It is the intention of this subchapter that the select board of ~~selectmen~~ as a body shall exercise all administrative and executive powers of the town except as provided in this subchapter. The select board of ~~selectmen~~ shall deal with the administrative services solely through the town manager and ~~shall~~ may not give orders to any subordinates of the manager, either publicly or privately. This section does not prevent the select board of ~~selectmen~~ from appointing committees or commissions of its own members or of citizens to conduct investigations into the conduct of any official or department, or any matter relating to the welfare of the town.

Sec. 42. 30-A MRSA §2636, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2636. Powers and duties of town manager

The town manager:

1. Executive and administrative officer. Is the chief executive and administrative official of the town;

2. Administer offices. Is responsible to the ~~selectmen~~ select board for the administration of all departments and offices over which the ~~selectmen have~~ select board has control;

3. Execute laws and ordinances. Shall execute all laws and ordinances of the town;

4. Department head. Shall serve in any office as the head of any department under the control of the ~~selectmen~~ select board when directed by the ~~selectmen~~ select board;

5. Appoint department heads. Shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the ~~selectmen~~ select board, supervise and control the heads of departments under the control of the ~~selectmen~~ select board when the department is not headed by the town manager under subsection 4;

6. Appoint town officials. Unless otherwise provided by town ordinance, shall appoint, supervise and control all town officials whom the municipal officers are required by law to appoint, except members of boards, commissions, committees and single assessors; and appoint, supervise and control all other officials, subordinates and assistants, except that the town manager may delegate this authority to a department head and report all appointments to the select board of ~~selectmen~~;

7. Purchasing agent. Shall act as purchasing agent for all departments, except the school department, ~~provided~~ except that the town or the ~~selectmen~~ select board may require that all purchases greater than a designated amount must be submitted to sealed bid;

8. Attend meetings of ~~selectmen~~ select board. Shall attend all meetings of the select board of ~~selectmen~~, and the town manager may attend meetings when the manager's removal is being considered;

9. Make recommendations. Shall make recommendations to the select board of ~~selectmen~~ for the more efficient operation of the town;

10. Attend town meetings. Shall attend all town meetings and hearings;

11. Inform of financial condition. Shall keep the select board of ~~selectmen~~ and the residents of the town informed as to the town's financial condition;

12. Collect data. Shall collect data necessary to prepare the budget;

13. Assist residents. Shall assist, insofar as possible, residents and taxpayers in discovering their lawful remedies in cases involving complaints of unfair vendor, administrative and governmental practices; and

14. Remove appointments. Has exclusive authority to remove for cause, after notice and hearing, all persons whom the manager is authorized to appoint and report all removals to the select board of ~~selectmen~~.

Sec. 43. 30-A MRSA §2637, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§2637. Transitional provisions

The ~~selectmen~~ select board, by resolve, may provide for the orderly transition of the town government. These resolves may not infringe upon the rights of any official or employee of the town and may not be inconsistent with this subchapter.

Sec. 44. 30-A MRSA §2638, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Selection of manager. The ~~selectmen~~ select boards of the contracting towns shall act as a joint board for the purposes of selecting and removing for cause the manager, ~~provided~~ except that each town has a single vote.

Sec. 45. 30-A MRSA §2638, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

3. Compensation. The agreement must contain a formula establishing the percentage of the manager's compensation to be contributed by each town. The ~~selectmen~~ select boards shall determine the manager's total compensation acting as a joint board, each town having a single vote.

Sec. 46. 30-A MRSA §4356, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 and Pt. C, §10, is amended to read:

3. Extension by ~~selectmen~~ select board. In municipalities where the municipal legislative body is the town meeting, the ~~selectmen~~ select board may extend the moratorium in compliance with subsection 2 after notice and hearing.

Sec. 47. 30-A MRSA §4702, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 234, §3 and affected by §42, is further amended to read:

B. The area of operation of the housing authority of a municipality does not include any area that lies within the municipal boundaries of any municipality for which a municipal housing authority has been organized, without the consent by resolution of the legislative body or the ~~selectmen~~ select board of the other municipality.

Sec. 48. 30-A MRSA §4702, sub-§15, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

15. ~~Selectmen~~ Select board. "~~Selectmen~~ Select board" means the members of the select board of ~~selectmen~~ of the town or, if the town has no ~~selectmen~~ select board, the officers charged with the duties customarily imposed on the select board of ~~selectmen~~ of a town.

Sec. 49. 30-A MRSA §4721, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

2. Procedure. The municipal legislative body shall consider the need for an authority on its own motion or upon the filing of a petition with the mayor of the city or the ~~selectmen~~ select board of the town. This petition must be signed by 25 voters of the city or town and assert that there is a need for an authority to function in the municipality and request that the municipal legislative body declare that need.

Sec. 50. 30-A MRSA §4721, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

4. Appointment of commissioners. Upon the adoption of a resolution by the municipal legislative body, the mayor of the city or the ~~selectmen~~ select board of the town shall appoint the commissioners of the authority under section 4723, subsection 1.

Sec. 51. 30-A MRSA §4725, as amended by PL 2011, c. 560, §2, is further amended to read:

§4725. Removal of commissioners

A commissioner may be removed from office for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office after hearing by the legislative body of a city, the ~~selectmen~~ select board of a town, or, in the case of the Maine State Housing Authority, the Governor. The commissioner must be given a copy of the charges at least 10 days before the hearing and must be given an opportunity to be heard in person or to be represented by counsel. If a commissioner is removed, a record of the proceedings, together with the charges and the findings on the charges, must be filed in the office of the clerk or, in the case of the Maine State Housing Authority, in the office of the Secretary of State. This section does not apply to the director of the Maine State Housing Authority, who may be removed by the commissioners pursuant to section 4723, subsection 2, paragraph C.

Sec. 52. 30-A MRSA §7007, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

§7007. Duties of officials

Assessors of plantations ~~shall be~~ are considered the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board of the plantation for the purpose of performing the duties performed by

the ~~selectmen~~ select boards of towns. Treasurers, collectors and constables of plantations must give the same bond as similar officials of towns are required to give, to be approved in the same manner. The valuation of property for the assessment of taxes in plantations, as well as the assessment, collection and disposal of taxes, ~~shall~~ must be the same as in towns.

Sec. 53. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§17-B, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 6, §1, is amended to read:

A. The ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board or councillors of a town; or

Sec. 54. 36 MRSA §501, sub-§4 is amended to read:

4. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" ~~shall mean~~ means the mayor, councillors and aldermen of cities, the ~~selectmen~~ members of the select board of towns and the assessors of plantations.

Sec. 55. 36 MRSA §703, as amended by PL 1991, c. 270, §4, is further amended to read:

§703. ~~Selectmen~~ Select board to act as assessors

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

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 276

S.P. 514 - L.D. 1621

An Act To Reform Payments to Legislators by Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1054-B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 21, §1 and c. 563, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1054-B. Payments to Legislators by political action committees and ballot question committees

1. Payments to Legislators. If a Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of a political action committee or a ballot question committee or is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for a political action commit-

tee or a ballot question committee, the committee is subject to the following restrictions regarding payments to that Legislator.

A. Except as provided in paragraphs B and C, the committee may not compensate the Legislator for services provided to the committee.

B. The committee may pay for or reimburse the Legislator for travel expenses incurred in the proper performance of the Legislator's legislative duties and in volunteering for the committee. If the Legislator uses the Legislator's vehicle when conducting the activities described in this paragraph, the committee may pay the Legislator mileage reimbursement at a rate established by the commission by rule but may not pay for or reimburse the Legislator for the direct costs of repairing or maintaining the Legislator's vehicle.

C. The committee may pay for or reimburse the Legislator for other expenses incurred in the proper performance of the Legislator's legislative duties and for purchases made by the Legislator on behalf of the committee.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the committee may not pay for or reimburse the Legislator for any expenses that have been or will be paid for or reimbursed by the Legislature or any other source of payment or reimbursement.

E. The committee may not make any payments for or reimburse the Legislator for any expenses that are determined by the commission to be for the purpose of personal financial enrichment of the Legislator.

2. Payments to immediate family members and businesses. If a Legislator is a principal officer or treasurer of a political action committee or a ballot question committee or is one of the individuals primarily responsible for raising contributions or making decisions for a political action committee or a ballot question committee, the committee is subject to the following restrictions regarding payments to an immediate family member of the Legislator or a business owned or operated by the Legislator or an immediate family member of the Legislator.

A. The committee may not compensate an immediate family member of the Legislator for services provided to the committee.

B. The committee may not make payments to or distribute, loan, advance, deposit or give money or anything of value to or compensate a business owned or operated by the Legislator or an immediate family member of the Legislator.

C. The committee may not make any payments for or reimburse the immediate family member of a Legislator for any expenses that are determined by