

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LD 1215 Resolve, To Require the State Auditor To Report on Corrective Actions Regarding the Administration of Federal Grants

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 42 requires the State Auditor to issue a report on the compliance of state agencies with findings and corrective actions issued by the State Auditor as part of an audit of the agencies regarding the administration of federal grants. The report must contain all the outstanding corrective actions that have not been taken and are listed on the prior audit status of single audit reports of all agencies for the immediate five complete fiscal years prior to the effective date of this resolve and any recommendations as to further corrective action or audit needed. The report shall be submitted, by December 2, 2022 to each joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the same policy and substantive matters as a state agency included in the report. Each committee may report out a bill based on the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1274 An Act Regarding 2021 Municipal Elections and Town Meetings

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 333, which is retroactive to January 15, 2021 and is repealed on the earlier of June 30, 2022 and the end of the state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the outbreak of COVID-19, does the following.

1. It deems approved a municipal budget that was approved or deemed approved in the prior year if an annual budget meeting is delayed beyond the date an annual budget is customarily submitted to a legislative body of a municipality for approval due to public health concerns arising from COVID-19.
2. It permits municipal assessors to commit property taxes on the basis of a municipal budget deemed approved.
3. It permits a municipal treasurer to disburse money on the authority of a warrant drawn for that purpose seen and signed individually by a majority of the municipal officers outside of a public meeting, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5603, subsection 2, paragraph A or any other law or municipal charter provision or ordinance to the contrary, for the duration of the state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and for 30 days following its termination.
4. It permits municipal officers during the calendar year 2021 to postpone the date of a scheduled secret ballot election for which nomination papers have already been issued or filed by posting notice in a conspicuous public location at least two days prior to the date of the election. The notice must be signed by a majority of the municipal officers and must either state a specific date and time during which the polls will be open to complete the election or state that the date of a rescheduled election will be determined by the municipal officers.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

5. It provides that any secret ballot election rescheduled under this law must be noticed by a warrant calling the election that is approved and posted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2523 at least seven days prior to the date of the rescheduled election.
6. It permits municipalities to use ballots that were printed for a postponed secret ballot election despite the inclusion of the original election date.
7. It requires municipalities to use ballots that were printed for an originally scheduled secret ballot election if absentee ballots have been issued and returned.
8. It requires a municipal clerk to safeguard and secure any absentee ballots already returned until the date of a rescheduled secret ballot election and process them as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A.
9. It permits a municipal clerk to issue and accept absentee ballots and applications and to allow voting in the presence of the clerk pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A during the period between the originally scheduled secret ballot election and the rescheduled secret ballot election.
10. It applies the rescheduling, ballot and absentee ballot provisions of this law to municipal secret ballot referendum elections.
11. It permits a hearing required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2528, subsection 5 or municipal charter before a referendum vote to be held via remote means.
12. It suspends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2528, subsection 1 to allow the municipal officers of any municipality that has not voted to accept secret ballot voting to do so during the state of emergency and allows elected officials in those municipalities to remain in office until an election is called pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2525.
13. It permits a municipal officer to file with the clerk an order establishing the wording of any referendum question by the 30th day before a referendum election, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statute, Title 30-A, section 2528, subsections 4 and 5.
14. It suspends during the state of emergency the requirement under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5721-A, subsection 7, paragraph A for a written ballot to exceed or increase the property tax levy at an open town hall meeting and permits the use of either a show of hands or a voice vote.

Public Law 2021, chapter 333 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 23, 2021.