



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1668

S.P. 567

In Senate, December 21, 2011

An Act To Improve the Regional School Unit Budget Approval and Validation Process

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative McCLELLAN of Raymond and
Senator: MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1486, sub-§3, ¶F**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c.
3 415, Pt. B, §7, is amended to read:

4 F. The article to be voted on must be in the following form:

5 (1) "Do you favor approving the (name of regional school unit) budget for the
6 upcoming school year ~~that was adopted at the latest (name of regional school~~
7 ~~unit) budget meeting, which is (dollar amount of budget), reflecting a (dollar~~
8 ~~amount of increase or decrease) (increase or decrease) from the budget for the~~
9 ~~previous school year?~~

10 Yes No"

11 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1487**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 668, §21, is further
12 amended to read:

13 **§1487. Failure to pass budget**

14 If a budget for the operation of a regional school unit is not approved prior to July
15 1st, the latest budget approved at a ~~regional school unit budget meeting and submitted to~~
16 ~~the voters for validation at a referendum~~ in accordance with section 1486 is automatically
17 considered the budget for operational expenses for the ensuing year until a final budget is
18 approved, except that, when the regional school unit board delays the regional school unit
19 budget meeting, the operating budget must be approved within 30 days of the date the
20 commissioner notifies the regional school unit board of the amount allocated to the
21 regional school unit under section 15689-B, or the latest budget ~~submitted by the regional~~
22 ~~school unit board approved at a budget validation referendum~~ becomes the operating
23 budget for the next school year until a final budget is approved at a regional school unit
24 budget meeting and validated at a referendum. If the budget of a regional school unit is
25 not approved and validated before July 1st and the officers of any affected municipality
26 determine that the property taxes must be committed in a timely manner to the collector
27 pursuant to Title 36, section 709, the municipal assessor or assessors may commit the
28 property taxes on the basis of the latest budget approved at a ~~regional school unit budget~~
29 ~~meeting and submitted to the voters for validation at a referendum~~ in accordance with
30 section 1486.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill changes the form of the question for a regional school unit budget validation
33 referendum. It also provides that if a budget for the operation of a regional school unit is
34 not approved prior to July 1st, the latest budget approved at a budget validation
35 referendum is automatically considered the budget for operational expenses for the
36 ensuing year until a final budget is approved.