

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2288

S.P. 1001

In Senate, April 9, 2024

An Act to Allow a Member of the Town of Perham Select Board to Facilitate the Election to Vacant Seats on the Select Board and to Approve and Sign Disbursement Warrants

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Senator: STEWART of Aroostook. Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Town of Perham Select Board does not have the quorum of members required to carry out the functions of the Select Board; and

Whereas, without the election of additional members to the Select Board to ensure a quorum, the functions of the Select Board will not be carried out; 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. Town of Perham temporary authority of a member of the Select Board; filling vacancies through appointment. A member of the Town of Perham Select Board may appoint a municipal clerk, registrar of voters and treasurer to fill existing vacancies for the purpose of facilitating an election to fill empty seats on the Select Board. The terms of these appointments end upon the election of a quorum to the Select Board unless the appointees are later confirmed as otherwise required by law or procedure.
- Sec. 2. Town of Perham authority of a member of the Select Board; authority to call town meetings and elections and designate shortened paper process. A member of the Town of Perham Select Board may issue a warrant calling a town meeting and an election to fill the vacancies on the Select Board pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, sections 2521 and 2528. A member of the Select Board may also designate a shortened nomination paper process for the election pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2528, subsection 4, paragraph E and may appoint the necessary number of ballot clerks to carry out the election pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2528, subsection 8.
- Sec. 3. Town of Perham authority of a member of the Select Board; disbursement warrants. Until a quorum of members is elected to the Town of Perham Select Board, a member of the Select Board may approve and sign disbursement warrants under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5603, subsection 2.
- Sec. 4. Town of Perham authority of a member of the Select Board; general assistance program administration. Until a quorum of members is elected to the Town of Perham Select Board, a member of the Select Board may approve any general assistance applications and perform any necessary functions to administer the Town of Perham's general assistance program that would otherwise require a quorum of members.
 - **Sec. 5. Repeal.** This Act is repealed December 31, 2024.
- **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

38 SUMMARY

This bill allows a member of the Town of Perham Select Board to take action to facilitate an election to fill empty seats on the Select Board. Until a quorum of members is

- elected to the Town of Perham Select Board, the bill allows a member to approve and sign disbursement warrants, approve general assistance applications and perform any necessary functions to administer the Town of Perham's general assistance program. 1
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