



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1091

H.P. 713

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Allowing Persons a Minimum Amount of Time in Which to Speak

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 14, 2025. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HYMES of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, COLLINS of Sidney, DRINKWATER of Milford, PAUL
of Winterport, QUINT of Hodgdon, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2524, 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. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak before that person is recognized by the moderator and, upon being recognized by the moderator, that person must be allowed at least 2 minutes to speak. 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.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that a person being recognized by the moderator to speak at a town meeting must be allowed at least 2 minutes to speak.