

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 64

H.P. 58 House of Representatives, January 5, 1983

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Webster of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE

AN ACT to Permit Towns to Abandon the Requirement of Comprehensive Planning.

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

22 30 MRSA §4961, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

23 3. Voter disapproval; effect. A majority of the
24 voters, at the annual town meeting or, if a town
25 meeting form of government does not exist, at a regu-
26 larly scheduled town election, may disapprove any
27 comprehensive plan adopted by the municipal planning
28 board, agency or office. The question to be pre-
29 sented may only be placed before the voters of a town
30 by order of the municipal officials or on the written
31 petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10%
32 of the number of votes cast in the town at the last
33 gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10.

The municipal officers shall require that a particular article be placed in the next printed ballot. A vote to disapprove the comprehensive plan stands until it is superseded by a vote calling for the readoption of the comprehensive planning process. A question seeking readoption of the comprehensive planning process shall be proposed to the voters in the manner set forth in this subsection.

9 STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit voters in each town the opportunity to abandon the comprehensive planning process. In some of the small communities, there is little desire to undertake comprehensive planning, but statutory law requires it, forcing townspeople to engage in processes for which they have neither interest nor use. Under this bill, if a majority of the voters reject adoption of a comprehensive plan, no further planning of this sort need be undertaken until such time, if ever, townspeople choose to readopt comprehensive planning.

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