MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 1309

H.P. 978

House of Representatives, April 22, 1993.

An Act to Authorize Sagadahoc County to Provide Centralized Administrative Services to Those Sagadahoc County Municipalities That Desire to Share the Cost of Those Services.

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 20, 1993. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government and 1200 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell. Cosponsored by Senator: CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 12 is enacted to read:
CHAPTER 12
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
\$1401. Provision of services to municipalities
griors riovidion or bervious to medicipations
A county may choose to provide centralized administration services to municipalities within that county by a majority voof the county commissioners. If a choice to provide centralizadministrative services is made, the county shall provide the
services pursuant to this chapter.
§1402. Public hearings
members and other municipal officials and members of the pub- to determine what services municipalities are unable to prov- in a cost-effective manner and which municipalities desire
provision of centralized administrative services. \$1403. Plan for administrative services
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§1403. Plan for administrative services When a service that may be more effectively provided by to county on a centralized basis is identified, the county commissioner shall appoint a committee consisting of not lethan one member from each interested municipality and one county that the county constraints are consisted to the county constraints.
When a service that may be more effectively provided by to county on a centralized basis is identified, the county commissioner shall appoint a committee consisting of not let than one member from each interested municipality and one county commissioner to study and determine the feasibility of providing service on a centralized basis. The committee shall solice
When a service that may be more effectively provided by to county on a centralized basis is identified, the cour commissioner shall appoint a committee consisting of not lethan one member from each interested municipality and one cour commissioner to study and determine the feasibility of providing service on a centralized basis. The committee shall solice letters of intent from each municipality that desires
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When a service that may be more effectively provided by county on a centralized basis is identified, the county on a centralized basis is identified, the county on a centralized basis is identified, the county commissioner shall appoint a committee consisting of not let than one member from each interested municipality and one county commissioner to study and determine the feasibility of providual service on a centralized basis. The committee shall solice that of intent from each municipality that desires participate in a plan for the provision of centralized administrative services and shall develop the plan. The county commissioners may accept or reject the plan.

When there is an approved plan, the county commissioners may employ needed qualified personnel, purchase any required furniture, fixtures and equipment and provide or obtain suitable quarters on the condition that the participating municipalities enter into a binding agreement to share the cost. The agreement must cover all operating costs and be for a term sufficient to recover any capital investments made by the county.

§1405. Additional municipalities

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	Municipalities that are not parties to an operating
	agreement at the time the agreement is made may join the
	operating agreement under terms agreed to by the county
	commissioners and a majority of the original participating
	municipalities and at a cost not to exceed that of the original
	participating municipalities by more than 5%.
	§1406. Tax increases prohibited
	The cost or any portion of the cost of providing centralized
	administrative services to participating municipalities may not
	be assessed to a nonparticipating municipality as a part of the
	county tax.
	\$1407. Penalties
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	If a participating municipality fails, after 30 days'
	notice, to meet any financial obligation required by an operating
	agreement, the amount of the obligation becomes a penalty, which
	must be added to the county tax and be assessed to that
	municipality.
	§1408. Eligible counties
	The following counties are eligible to provide centralized
	administrative services pursuant to this chapter:
	. I Considera Country Considera Country
	1. Sagadahoc County. Sagadahoc County.
	STATEMENT OF FACT
	This bill allows counties to adopt cooperative plans with
1	member municipalities to provide administrative services on a
	centralized basis.
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	The bill limits cooperative plans to Sagadahoc County at
	this time, although other counties could be authorized to provide
	centralized services using this framework. Sagadahoc County is
	specified as the pilot county as it is small enough to have an
	intimate relationship with its member municipalities, but large
	enough to provide pooled expert services to member municipalities
	that choose to participate.
	The bill prohibits the assessment as part of the general
1	county tax of the costs of these services to municipalities that
	do not choose to participate, but allows the use of the county
	tax as an enforcement mechanism for delinquent obligations of
	participating municipalities.

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