

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

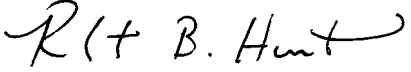
No. 1155

H.P. 760

House of Representatives, March 20, 2025

**An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations
Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice**

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FLYNN of Albion.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and
Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, GRIFFIN of Levant,
POMERLEAU of Standish.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 771, §26, is repealed and the
3 following enacted in its place:

4 **§4. Dedimus justices**

5 **1. Appointment.** The Governor shall appoint in each county persons who are
6 designated as dedimus justices, before whom the oath required by the Constitution of
7 Maine to qualify civil officers may be taken and subscribed. Such persons shall exercise
8 their powers and duties and must be commissioned to act within and for each county as
9 follows.

10 A. Two persons in each county that are county employees must be appointed as
11 dedimus justices so that these persons may exercise the powers and duties of dedimus
12 justice on behalf of county government.

13 B. One person in each county that is an employee of the county sheriff must be
14 appointed as dedimus justice so that this person may exercise the powers and duties of
15 dedimus justice on behalf of the county sheriff.

16 **2. Verification; roster.** The Secretary of State shall maintain a roster of those persons
17 designated as dedimus justices pursuant to subsection 1 and make the roster available on
18 the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website. On an annual basis, the Secretary of
19 State shall contact a person designated as a dedimus justice for the purpose of verifying
20 that the person is willing and able to fulfill the duties of dedimus justice as described in
21 subsection 1. If, after attempts in 2 consecutive years, the Secretary of State is unable to
22 verify that a person designated as a dedimus justice is willing and able to fulfill the duties
23 of dedimus justice, the Secretary of State shall remove the name of that dedimus justice
24 from the roster required by this subsection.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill amends the law governing dedimus justices by requiring the appointment of
27 2 county employees and one sheriff's department employee in each county to perform the
28 duties of dedimus justice on behalf of county government and the county sheriff,
29 respectively. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to maintain a roster of persons
30 designated as dedimus justices and make the roster available on the Secretary of State's
31 publicly accessible website.