

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1884

H.P. 1255

House of Representatives, May 5, 2025

Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners

Received by the Clerk of the House on May 1, 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 that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden,
HASENFUS of Readfield, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec,
FARRIN of Somerset.

Sec. 1. Referendum. Resolved: That the county commissioners of Kennebec County shall submit the following question to the legal voters of the county by ballot at the statewide election to be held in November 2026. The Secretary of State shall conduct the referendum in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A. The subject matter of this resolve must be reduced to the following question:

"Do you favor increasing the number of Kennebec County commissioner districts from 3 to 5 and staggering the terms of the 5 county commissioners beginning in 2028?"

The voters shall indicate their opinion on this question by a cross or check mark placed against the word "Yes" or "No." The question must be approved by a majority of the legal voters casting ballots at the referendum election.

The results of the referendum must be declared by the county commissioners or county administrator and due certificate filed with the Secretary of State within 10 days after the date of the election.

Sec. 2. Apportionment of Kennebec County if referendum question passes; terms of office. Resolved: That, if the referendum question submitted to the legal voters of Kennebec County in accordance with section 1 passes by majority vote, the Kennebec County commissioners shall establish an apportionment commission, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," in accordance with the procedure established in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A to apportion the Kennebec County commissioner districts to increase the number of county commissioner districts in Kennebec County. The commission shall develop a plan with maps to increase the number of county commissioner districts from 3 to 5. The commission shall establish the initial terms of office for each county commissioner district. Two commissioners must have 2-year initial terms and 3 commissioners must have 4-year initial terms.

Sec. 3. Submit to Legislature. Resolved: That the plan under section 2 must be submitted by the commission to the Clerk of the House of Representatives no later than January 15, 2027 for enactment by the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 4. Election of county commissioners. Resolved: That the election of Kennebec County commissioners in the reapportioned districts approved pursuant to section 3 must take place at the statewide election held in November 2028.

SUMMARY

This resolve proposes a referendum to increase the number of commissioners for Kennebec County from 3 to 5. The resolve will put the question out to the voters of Kennebec County in November 2026.