

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 780

S. P. 266

In Senate, January 29, 1963

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cram of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

AN ACT Proposing a Study of Cost and Efficiency of Municipal and County Government.

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

Sec. 1. Committee; appointment; duties. There shall be created a joint interim committee consisting of 8 members, of whom 3 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and 5 by the Speaker of the House.

The committee shall study the functions of municipal and county government, the efficiency with which the functions are performed, and their cost. It shall consider ways of reducing the cost to the taxpayer of municipal and county government. It shall consider which functions of government can best be administered by municipalities, which functions can best be administered by counties and which functions can best be administered by the State. It shall consider the advisability of altering municipal or county lines to embrace metropolitan areas or areas of common interest in order to create efficient units of government. It shall consider the advisability of changing the form of county government to one better able to meet the problems of today. It may consider and explore any problem affecting the cost and efficiency of municipal and county government.

The committee shall employ a director of research and may employ other personnel in its discretion. It may contract with persons or firms for studies on particular phases of the problem only. It shall meet regularly to receive reports from the director of research and to direct the course of the investigation. It shall hold public hearings. It shall report to the 102nd Legislature and make recommendations, based on its studies, for amendments to or redraft of the municipal and county laws.

The state departments shall give all possible aid to the committee and its director of research. Committee members shall receive their expenses when on committee business.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964 to carry out the purposes of section 1. Said appropriation shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1965.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The counties and municipalities derive their revenue largely from the general property tax. The constantly increasing burden of this tax, while many municipal problems remain unsolved, demands such a study.