

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 755**

S. P. 247

In Senate, February 11, 1971

Referred to Committee on County Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Peabody of Aroostook.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT** Relating to Procedure to Establish County Budgets by  
County Commissioners.

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

**R. S., T. 30, § 252, repealed and replaced.** Section 252 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, as last repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 541 of the public laws of 1967, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**§ 252. Annual estimates for county taxes**

In order to assess a county tax, county commissioners, at their regular meeting each October, shall prepare a proposed budget of the sum necessary to defray the expenses which may accrue for the succeeding calendar year for all proper county activities and expenses.

A copy of said proposed budget shall be mailed to the clerk of each municipality in said county, together with at least 14 days' notice of a public hearing thereon within the county at a time and place specified in said notice, which shall be by registered or certified mail with return receipt. Notice of said hearing shall also be published in a newspaper published within said county at least 5 days prior to said meeting.

Following said public hearing the commissioners shall adopt a budget for the succeeding calendar year, and the county tax shall be assessed by them on the basis thereof in accordance with section 254.

Said budget shall provide specific amounts for personal services, contractual services, commodities, debt service and capital expenditures, on such forms and in such manner as shall be required by the State Department of Audit.

Copies of such forms shall be transmitted to the county commissioners of each county by the Office of the Secretary of State no later than August 1st of each year.

Whenever any specific appropriation of a department or agency of county government shall prove insufficient to pay the required expenditures for the statutory purposes for which such appropriation was made, the county commissioners may, upon written request of such department or agency, transfer from any other specific line appropriation of the same department or agency an amount as required to meet such expenditure, provided that such request shall bear the written approval of the majority of the county commissioners.

There is established a contingent account in each county in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Such funds as are available to each county may be used for this purpose. This fund shall be used for emergency purposes only at the discretion of the county commissioners. At the end of each fiscal year there shall be transferred from unencumbered county funds an amount sufficient to restore the established county contingent account.

Any transfers between specific line categories or from the contingent account shall be certified by the county commissioners within 30 days to the State Department of Audit.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to change the procedure by which county commissioners establish county budgets.