

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2064**

H. P. 1671

House of Representatives, January 2, 1974

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FOUR

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**AN ACT** Converting Somerville Plantation into the Town of Somerville.

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is of concern that people of the State of Maine be allowed to govern themselves on a local level; and

Whereas, it is the purpose of this Legislation to allow the inhabitants of the proposed Town of Somerville to begin immediately to govern their own affairs; and

Whereas, the inhabitants of the proposed Town of Somerville have demonstrated the desire and capability of doing so; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. Town of Somerville, incorporated.** Somerville Plantation, with the inhabitants therein, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Somerville. The inhabitants of said town are hereby vested with the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of towns within the State do or may enjoy. The town hereby created shall take the effects belonging to Somerville Plantation and shall also assume all the obligations thereof.

**Sec. 2. First meeting, how called.** Any justice of the peace in the County of Lincoln may issue his warrant to any legal voter in the Plantation of Somerville, directing him to notify the inhabitants to meet at a place specified in said warrant and at a time consistent with the normal annual meeting time in March, 1974, giving at least 7 days' notice therefor, for the choice of town officers and to transact such business as towns are authorized to do.

**Sec. 3. Referendum; effective date; certificate to Secretary of State.** This Act shall take effect immediately, only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the legal voters within the territory embraced within the limits of said proposed Town of Somerville, voting by ballot at an election to be specially called and held for the purpose within 12 months of the effective date of sections 1 and 2 of this Act. The meeting shall be called, advertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections; provided, that the board of assessors in said proposed Town of Somerville shall not be required to prepare for posting, nor the plantation clerk to post, a new list of voters, and for the purpose of registration of voters, said board shall be in session on the day of election and on such additional days thereto as they may determine. The plantation clerk shall prepare the required ballots, on which he shall reduce the subject matter of sections 1 and 2 of this Act to the following question: "Shall 'An Act Converting Somerville Plantation into the Town of Somerville,' passed by the 106th Legislature, first special session, be accepted?" The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. Upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters voting at said meeting, sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall take effect for all the purposes hereof at the annual meeting in March, 1974; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of sections 1 and 2 of this Act at said meeting equaled or exceeded 50% of the total number of the qualified voters within said territory.

The result of the vote shall be declared by the board of assessors of the Plantation of Somerville, and due certificate shall be filed by the plantation clerk with the Secretary of State.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title