

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1179

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H. P. 937

House of Representatives, March 20, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cooney of Sabattus.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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### AN ACT to Establish 2-year Terms for County Commissioners.

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

30 MRSA §§ 101-103, are amended to read:

#### § 101. Board membership; chairman

There shall be a board of commissioners for each county consisting of a chairman and 2 other citizens, all resident in the county, who shall be elected **biennially**, or in case of a vacancy, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. The chairman shall be designated by them at their first meeting on or after the first day of January annually, to act for one year. ~~except that in Androscoggin County the elected member whose term soonest expires shall be chairman. If said elected member in Androscoggin County shall in writing decline the election as chairman, the board may, by ballot, elect either of the other members to be chairman.~~

#### § 102. Vacancies; expiration of term

Vacancies to occur by expiration of the term of office at the end of any year in which a biennial election is held shall be filled by election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in such year. The terms of office for a county commissioner shall be **6 2** years, except when one is elected to fill out an unexpired term when it shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. ~~Where but one county commissioner is so to be elected, the nomination papers and official ballot shall specify simply the office of county commissioner. When 2 or more county commissioners are so to be elected, the nomination papers and ballots shall by apt words designate the respective terms for which they are to be nominated or elected~~

**§ 103. —other times**

When no choice is effected or a vacancy happens in the office of county commissioner by death, resignation, removal from the county or for any other reason, the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy, who shall hold office for the remainder of the term ~~until the first day of January after another has been chosen to fill the place~~

**Sec. 2.** 30 MRSA § 347, first sentence, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 289, § 1, is amended to read:

There is created and established a County Records Board to consist of 5 members: Four persons to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council for a term of ~~3~~ 2 years; one of whom shall be a county commissioner; one of whom shall be a register of deeds; one of whom shall be a register of probate; and one of whom shall be experienced in real estate title examinations; and a 5th person who shall be the State Archivist and shall serve as chairman.

**Sec. 3. Transition.** The transition to the 2-year term for county commissioners shall occur as each commissioner completes his or her present term of office. As the term of every present commissioner expires, the succeeding commissioner shall be elected to a 2-year term in office.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The purpose of this bill is to make county government more visible to the voter and to make the office of county commissioner more sensitive to the electorate.