

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

(Filing No. H-1292)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "F" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P.
2345, L.D. 2212, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the
Constitution to Limit the Amount of Revenues which may be
Raised by Taxes in any Fiscal Year.

Amend the Amendment on page 2 by striking out all of
paragraph C and inserting in its place the following:

'C. The Legislature declares an emergency in accordance
with the specifics of the Governor's request by a two-thirds
vote of each branch.'

Further amend the Amendment by striking out all of the last
paragraph on page 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'3. Protection of local units. The State shall not
require local units of government to fund any programs not
in effect on the effective date of this chapter, nor require
them to fund expansion of present programs unless the legislation
authorizing the new or expanded program both includes a
municipal fiscal impact statement which includes an estimate
of the costs to be imposed on municipalities or other levels
of government and is enacted by a 2/3 vote of those present
and voting of each House. If the State transfers funding
responsibility for existing programs to local units of government,
or reduces total state aid to local units as annually adjusted
by the cost-of-living change or personal income change, whichever
is less, that reduction or transfer shall reduce the State's
annual limitation established in subsection 1 by the total
appropriations reduced or transferred.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment provides that the State shall not require local units of government to finance new or expanded programs unless the legislation authorizing that program includes a municipal fiscal impact statement and is enacted by 2/3 vote of those present and voting. This statement must include an estimate of the costs which will be imposed on municipalities or other levels of government.

This amendment also allows the State to reduce local aid or transfer funding responsibility for existing local programs if the reduction or transfer results in a reduced state appropriation limitation.

This amendment also eliminates the emergency problem that existed in subsection 2, paragraph C.