

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1237

H. P. 1027

House of Representatives, March 10, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Rolde of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Increase the Number of County Commissioners in York County.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 101, first sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 771, § 308, is further amended to read:

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 every 4 years, or in case of a vacancy, appointed by the Governor; **except that the board of commissioners for York County shall consist of a chairman and 4 other citizens, 2 of whom shall be elected at-large.**

Sec. 2. Transition; election. If this Act, is accepted by the legal voters of York County as set forth in section 3, the at-large commissioners shall be elected in 1982.

Sec. 3. Referendum; effective date. This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of York County at a special election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, 1981. The York County board of commissioners is authorized to expend those funds which are necessary to implement the referendum.

The county clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which he shall state the subject matter of this Act in the following question:

“Shall the number of county commissioners for York County be increased from 3 to 5, with the 2 new commissioners elected at-large?”

The voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words “Yes” or “No” their opinion of the question.

The results of the vote in York County shall be declared by the York County board of commissioners and due certificate thereof shall be filed by the county clerk with the Secretary of State.

This Act shall be deemed approved by York County upon its acceptance by a majority of the legal voters at that election; provided the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this Act equals or exceeds 20% of the total votes for all candidates for Governor cast in the next previous gubernatorial election in York County.

This Act shall become effective upon approval.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill seeks a referendum in York County to increase the number of county commissioners from 3 to 5 in order to avoid situations where 2 commissioners continually vote together and, in effect, void the vote of the other commissioner. If approved by the voters, the 2 new commissioners would be elected at-large.