

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1259

H. P. 1040

House of Representatives, March 11, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Carter of Winslow.

Cosponsors: Representative J. Martin of Eagle Lake, Senator McBreairty of Aroostook and Representative Hall of Sangerville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide a Referendum to Abolish County Government and Authorize Reassignment of its Functions and Duties to Appropriate State and Municipal Departments and Agencies.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA Pt. 1, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 2. Reassignment of functions, duties and powers. If this Act is approved under section 3, the Legislature shall, prior to the effective date of this Act, enact legislation assigning the current functions, duties and powers of county government to appropriate state and municipal departments and agencies.

Sec. 3. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide election; effective date. This Act shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

“Shall county government be abolished and its functions and duties reassigned to appropriate state and municipal departments and agencies?”

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word “Yes” or “No.” The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and section 2 of this Act shall become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation. Section 1 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 1983.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for a referendum vote to abolish county government. If the bill is approved, the Legislature will enact legislation reassigning existing county functions, duties and powers to appropriate state and municipal departments and agencies.