

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
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5 Legislative Document

No. 64

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7 H.P. 58

House of Representatives, January 5, 1983

8 Reference to the Committee on Local and County Government suggested  
9 and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Webster of Farmington.

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11  
12 STATE OF MAINE  
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14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
16

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17 AN ACT to Permit Towns to Abandon the  
18 Requirement of Comprehensive Planning.  
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20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
21 follows:

22 30 MRSA §4961, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

23 3. Voter disapproval; effect. A majority of the  
24 voters, at the annual town meeting or, if a town  
25 meeting form of government does not exist, at a regu-  
26 larly scheduled town election, may disapprove any  
27 comprehensive plan adopted by the municipal planning  
28 board, agency or office. The question to be pre-  
29 sented may only be placed before the voters of a town  
30 by order of the municipal officials or on the written  
31 petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10%  
32 of the number of votes cast in the town at the last  
33 gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10.

1 The municipal officers shall require that a partic-  
2 ular article be placed in the next printed ballot. A  
3 vote to disapprove the comprehensive plan stands  
4 until it is superseded by a vote calling for the  
5 readoption of the comprehensive planning process. A  
6 question seeking readoption of the comprehensive  
7 planning process shall be proposed to the voters in  
8 the manner set forth in this subsection.

9 STATEMENT OF FACT

10 The purpose of this bill is to permit voters in  
11 each town the opportunity to abandon the comprehen-  
12 sive planning process. In some of the small communi-  
13 ties, there is little desire to undertake comprehen-  
14 sive planning, but statutory law requires it, forcing  
15 townspeople to engage in processes for which they  
16 have neither interest nor use. Under this bill, if a  
17 majority of the voters reject adoption of a compre-  
18 hensive plan, no further planning of this sort need  
19 be undertaken until such time, if ever, townspeople  
20 choose to readopt comprehensive planning.

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