

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 786

7 H.P. 635

House of Representatives, February 16, 1983

8 On Motion of Representative McHenry of Madawaska referred to the
9 Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Carter of Winslow.

Cosponsors: Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake, Representative Jalbert of
Lewiston and Representative Paradis of Augusta.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Provide a
18 Referendum to Abolish County
19 Government and Authorize
20 Reassignment of its Functions
21 and Duties to Appropriate State
22 and Municipal Departments and
23 Agencies.
24

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

27 Sec. 1. 30 MRSA Pt. 1, as amended, is repealed.

28 Sec. 2. Reassignment of functions, duties and
29 powers. If this Act is approved under section 3, the
30 Legislature shall, prior to the effective date of
31 this Act, enact legislation assigning the current
32 functions, duties and powers of county government to
33 appropriate state and municipal departments and agen-
34 cies.

1 Sec. 3. Statutory referendum procedure; submis-
2 sion at statewide election; effective date. This Act
3 shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State
4 of Maine at a statewide election to be held on the
5 Tuesday following the first Monday of November fol-
6 lowing passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town
7 selectmen and plantation assessors of this State
8 shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cit-
9 ies, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner
10 prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,
11 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by
12 voting on the following question:

13 "Shall county government be abolished and its func-
14 tions and duties reassigned to appropriate state and
15 municipal departments and agencies?"

16 The legal voters of each city, town and
17 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and
18 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark
19 placed within a corresponding square below the word
20 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,
21 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and
22 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary
23 of State in the same manner as votes for members of
24 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the
25 returns and, if it appears that a majority of the
26 legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor
27 shall proclaim that fact without delay, and section 2
28 of this Act shall become effective 30 days after the
29 date of the proclamation. Section 1 of this Act
30 shall take effect January 1, 1985.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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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.

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