

Reference to the Committee on Local and County Government suggested		FIRST REGULAR SESSION	
S.P. 160 In Senate, February 5, 1985 Reference to the Committee on Local and County Government suggested and ordered printed. JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate Presented by Senator Chalmers of Knox. STATE OF MAINE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE AN ACT to More Clearly Provide for Public Access to the County Budget Process. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: Sec. 1. 30 MRSA §252, 5th ¶, as amended by PL 1983, c. 471, §5, is further amended to read: Prior to the convening of the Legislature, the county commissioners of each county shall meet with the respective county legislative delegation to finalize estimates for the year. Written notice of that meeting shall be sent by certified mail with re- turn receipt requested, or delivered by hand in per- son, with proof received of the delivery, to the clerk of each municipality in the county at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall state that the municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the receipt of the notice. In addition, notice of that meeting shall be given at least 10	ONE HU	UNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE	
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circulation within the county. The proposed budget to
be submitted to the Legislature by the county legis lative delegation shall be that budget as finalized
at the meeting.

5 Sec. 2. 30 MRSA §252, as amended by PL 1983, c. 6 471, §5, is further amended by adding at the end a 7 new paragraph to read:

8 All meetings of the county commissioners to pre-9 pare estimates for the county budget, including all 10 discussions and meetings with the respective county 11 legislative delegations, shall be considered public 12 proceedings as defined in Title 1, section 402, sub-13 section 2, and for which prior public notice must be 14 given in accordance with Title 1, section 406.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The procedure to finalize a county budget is not stated with precision in the statutes. The purpose 17 18 of this bill is to lend some precision to that pro-19 cess by requiring public notice and certified notice 20 to the municipal officers of the meeting that must occur between county commissioners and the county 21 22 legislative delegation to finalize estimates for the year and to clarify that all county budget meetings 23 are public proceedings under Maine's freedom of ac-24 25 cess law.

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