

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 520

6
7 H.P. 379

House of Representatives, February 12, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Carter of Winslow.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Paradis of Augusta, Speaker Martin of
Eagle Lake and Senator Baldacci of Penobscot.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

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

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

25 Sec. 1. 30 MRSA Pt. 1, as amended, is repealed.

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

33 Sec. 3. Statutory referendum procedure; submis-
34 sion at statewide election; effective date. This Act
35 shall be submitted to the legal voters of the State

1 of Maine at a statewide election to be held on the
2 Tuesday following the first Monday of November fol-
3 lowing passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town
4 selectmen and plantation assessors of this State
5 shall notify the inhabitants of their respective
6 cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner
7 prescribed by law for holding a statewide election,
8 to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by
9 voting on the following question:

10 "Shall county government be abolished and its func-
11 tions and duties reassigned to appropriate state and
12 municipal departments and agencies?"

13 The legal voters of each city, town and
14 plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and
15 shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark
16 placed within a corresponding square below the word
17 "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received,
18 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and
19 plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary
20 of State in the same manner as votes for members of
21 the Legislature. The Governor shall review the re-
22 turns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal
23 votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
24 proclaim that fact without delay, and section 2 of
25 this Act shall become effective 30 days after the
26 date of the proclamation. Section 1 of this Act
27 shall take effect January 1, 1987.

28 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish
29 to each city, town and plantation all ballots, re-
30 turns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out
31 the purposes of this referendum.

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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.

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