

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 799

(Filing No. H-396)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A"
to S.P. 310, L.D. 799, Bill, "AN ACT to Establish an
Aroostook County Budget Committee."

Amend the Amendment by striking out all of the
first paragraph after the title and inserting in its
place the following:

'Amend the Bill by inserting before the enacting
clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
lature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is desired to obtain the benefits of
participation by local officials at the earliest possi-
ble time; and

Whereas, the budget committee by terms of this
Act must be elected at least 90 days prior to the end
of the fiscal year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
the Constitution of Maine and require the following
legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
therefore,

Further amend the Bill by striking out all of
that part designated "§1401." and inserting in its
place the following:

§1401. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish in

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1 Aroostook County a method of appropriating money for
2 county expenditures, including expenditures for mu-
3 nicipal services in the unorganized territory, ac-
4 ording to a budget, which shall first be adopted by
5 a budget committee and shall then be approved by the
6 legislative delegation. This chapter amends the
7 present statutory method in sections 252 and 253 by
8 removing the authority of the Legislature to approve
9 the Aroostook County budget and creating a committee
10 elected by Aroostook County municipal officers with
11 authority to adopt or amend the budget. The county
12 legislative delegation shall continue to have author-
13 ity to approve, but not to amend, the budget. This
14 chapter applies only to Aroostook County.'

15 Further amend the Amendment by inserting after
16 the 5th paragraph after the title the following:

17 'Further amend the Bill in that part designated
18 "§1405." by striking out all of subsection 4 and in-
19 serring in its place the following:

20 '4. Adoption of budget. After completion of the
21 public hearing, the budget committee may further in-
22 crease, decrease, alter and revise the proposed item-
23 ized budgets, subject to the conditions and restric-
24 tions imposed in subsection 2. The proposed itemized
25 budget shall be finally adopted by a majority vote of
26 the budget committee at a duly called meeting not la-
27 ter than the end of the county's fiscal year.

28 5. Final budget approval. No later than the end
29 of the county's fiscal year, the budget committee
30 shall submit the adopted budget to the county legis-
31 lative delegation for approval.

32 Prior to January 15th of the fiscal year for which
33 the budget is prepared, the legislative delegation
34 shall inform the budget committee as to whether the
35 budget is approved and, if not approved, the reasons
36 for disapproval. If the legislative delegation has

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1 not given a decision to the budget committee prior to
2 January 15th, the budget shall be considered approved
3 as submitted.

4 If the legislative delegation disapproves of the bud-
5 get, the budget committee shall submit within 15 cal-
6 endar days, new budget proposals in accordance with
7 subsection 1 and the provisions of this section shall
8 be followed until a budget is finally approved.

9 The budget as approved by the legislative delegation
10 shall be the final authorization for the assessment
11 of county taxes. The budget shall be transmitted to
12 the county commissioners and the county tax autho-
13 ritized shall be apportioned and collected in accord-
14 ance with section 254. The budget for the unorganized
15 territories will be transmitted to the State as pro-
16 vided by section 5903.

17 The county shall, until a budget is finally adopted,
18 operate on an interim budget which shall not exceed
19 the previous year's budget.

20 The county commissioners may transfer funds as pro-
21 vided in section 252.'

22 Further amend the Bill in that part designated
23 "§1406." by striking out all of the 3rd underlined
24 sentence and inserting in its place the following:
25 'The budget committee shall within 15 calendar days
26 approve, disapprove or amend this revised budget. In
27 the event that the proposed revised budget is ap-
28 proved or amended, the budget committee within this
29 same time period shall forward the revised budget to
30 the legislative delegation for final approval. The
31 legislative delegation shall have 15 calendar days to
32 render a decision on the revised budget. Section
33 1405, subsection 5 shall apply to a failure of the
34 legislative delegation to render a decision or a dis-
35 approval of the revised budget.'

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1 Further amend the Bill in that part designated
2 "§1406." in the next to the last line and the last
3 line (page 6, lines 10 and 11 in L.D.) by striking
4 out the following: "the budget committee's action"
5 and inserting in its place the following: 'an approv-
6 al of a revised budget by the legislative
7 delegation'

8 Further amend the Amendment by inserting after
9 the 7th paragraph after the title the following:

10 'Further amend the Bill by inserting at the end
11 before the Statement of Fact the following:

12 'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
13 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
14 proved.'

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 This amendment gives final approval authority
17 over the budget to the county's legislative delega-
18 tion. It is not intended that this also require ap-
19 proval by the total Legislature.

20 4346061285

Filed by Rep. Crouse of Caribou
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the
Clerk of the House

6/12/85

(Filing No. H-396)