MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY) (New Draft of H.P. 463, L.D. 618) FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

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NO. 1692

H.P. 1240 House of Representatives, May 29, 1987
Reported by the Majority from the Committee on State and
Local Government and printed under Joint Rule 2.
EDWIN H. PERT. Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town. Cosponsored by Representatives NADEAU of Lewiston and INGRAHAM of Houlton.

STATE OF MAINE

Resolve, Requiring a Legislative Study of

County Budget Procedures.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;

Whereas, Maine law has traditionally required the approval of county budgets by the Legislature; and

Whereas, municipalities have long advocated a role in the county budget-making function, since the revenues used by the counties are to be a significant

degree obtained from the local property tax; and

- 1 Whereas, in recent years legislation has been en-2 acted for individual counties which aims to locate 3 the approval process with the county commissioners or 4 at the municipal level; and
 - Whereas, this legislation has resulted in a large number of diverse budgetary procedures; and

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- Whereas, it might be observed that experience is
 proving some of these procedures to be better than
 others; and
- Whereas, a simplified, uniform procedure would be preferable administratively; and
- Whereas, numerous reviews in recent years have recommended revision of the county budget process;
- 14 and
- Whereas, the Speaker's Select Committee on Property Tax Reform has recommended that the Legislature study the various provisions relating to county budgets; 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 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
- Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- Study. Resolved: That the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government shall study county budget procedures and initiate any required legislation. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following questions:
- 1. Which of the following roles should the Legislature, legislative delegation, county commissioners or municipal budget committees have in regards to the county budget: Review and recommendation, revision, adoption, first approval or final approval;

	1 2	What procedure should amendments; and	be followed for budget
	3 4 5	 What procedure results of accountability of decisio spending decisions; and be it f 	n makers for county
	6 7 8 9	Meetings. Resolved: That th 5 times to study the issues thr staff and recognized experts an ings; and be it further	ough consultation with
	10 11 12 13 14	Findings; recommendations. committee shall present its fi ture by November 1, 1987. present any recommended legis ture by January 1, 1988; and be	ndings to the Legisla- The committee shall lation to the Legisla-
	15 16 1 7 18	Staff assistance. Resolved: shall request from the Legislat staff assistance to carry out the	ive Council sufficient
	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Reimbursement. Resolved: the committee participating in a ceive the legislative per dimaine Revised Statutes, Title 5 days of attendance at committee bers of the committee participant receive reimbursement, a section 12002, upon application rector of the Legislative Councipand be it further	the study shall re- iem, as defined in the , section 12002, for ee meetings. All mem- pating in the study as defined in Title 5, to the Executive Di-
	29 30 31	Appropriation. Resolved: funds are appropriated from the out the purposes of this resolved	General Fund to carry
	32		1987-88
	33	LEGISLATURE	
	34 35 36	Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government	
	37	Personal Services	\$3,600

1 2 3	All Other	5,600	
	Total	\$9,200	
4 5 6		e. In view of the emergency cited is resolve shall take effect when	
7		FISCAL NOTE	
8 9 10 11	appropriation in fig	will require a \$9,200 General Fund scal year 1988 to fund the per dited expenses of the legislative get procedures.	
12	S	PATEMENT OF FACT	
13 14 15 16	cess for all countied county budget procedute on State and Loc	e eliminates a uniform budget pro- es as an objective of the study of dures. The Joint Standing Commit- cal Government has determined that able or attainable objective.	1
18 19 20		nanges the reporting date for the , 1987, and adds a fiscal note for study.	