

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2224

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H.P. 1629 House of Representatives, February 10, 1988

Approved for introduction by a majority of the  
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government  
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives WEBSTER of Cape Elizabeth,  
BROWN of Gorham and REED of Falmouth.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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1                   **AN ACT to Limit Elected County Officials to**  
2                   **Commissioners, Sheriffs and Probate**  
3                   **Officers.**  
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5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
6 follows:

7       **Sec. 1. 30 MRSA §601, as amended by PL 1981, c.**  
8       **401, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its**  
9       **place:**

10       §601. Appointment; vacancy

1        The county administrator or, in the absence of a  
2 county administrator, the county commissioners shall  
3 appoint a treasurer and determine the treasurer's  
4 compensation and work schedule. The treasurer shall  
5 be responsible to the county administrator or, in the  
6 county administrator's absence, the county  
7 commissioners for all duties herein delineated. The  
8 treasurer shall be chosen without reference to party  
9 affiliation and solely on the grounds of qualifications  
10 in matters of business administration and finance.  
11 The treasurer may be removed or suspended by the  
12 county commissioners only for cause. Any such action  
13 shall be in accordance with the procedure for removing  
14 or suspending a town manager under section 2313.  
15 Cause for dismissal, suspension or disciplinary action  
16 shall be a just, reasonable, appropriate and  
17 substantial reason for the action taken that relates  
18 to or affects the ability, performance of duties,  
19 authority or actions of the employee or the public's  
20 rights or interests.

21        Sec. 2. 30 MRS §602, as amended by PL 1975, c.  
22 771, §316, is repealed.

23        Sec. 3. 30 MRS §603 is repealed.

24        Sec. 4. 30 MRS §604, as repealed and replaced  
25 by PL 1977, c. 67, §6, is repealed.

26        Sec. 5. 30 MRS §605, as enacted by PL 1977, c.  
27 657, §16, is repealed.

28        Sec. 6. 30 MRS §§606 and 607, as enacted by PL  
29 1981, c. 419, are repealed.

30        Sec. 7. 33 MRS §601, as amended by PL 1981, c.  
31 698, §166, is repealed and the following enacted in  
32 its place:

33        §601. Appointment of register; vacancies

34        The county administrator or, in the absence of a  
35 county administrator, the county commissioners shall  
36 appoint a register of deeds and determine the  
37 register's compensation and work schedule. The  
38 register of deeds

1 shall be responsible to the county administrator or,  
2 in the county administrator's absence, the county  
3 commissioners for all the duties delineated in this  
4 chapter. The register of deeds shall be chosen  
5 without reference to party affiliation and solely on  
6 the basis of actual experience in, and knowledge of,  
7 the duties of the office as set forth. The register  
8 of deeds may be removed or suspended by the county  
9 commissioners only for cause. Such action shall be in  
10 accordance with the procedure for removing or  
11 suspending a town manager under section 2313. Cause  
12 for dismissal, suspension or disciplinary action shall  
13 be a just, reasonable, appropriate and substantial  
14 reason for the action taken that relates to or affects  
15 the ability, performance of duties, authority or  
16 actions of the employee or the public's rights or  
17 interests.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

19 This bill changes the offices of county treasurer  
20 and register of deeds from elected offices to offices  
21 appointed by the county commissioners.

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