

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 817
(Filing No. S- 316)

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 312, L.D. 817, Bill, "An Act to Provide a Referendum to Abolish County Government and Authorize Reassignment of its Functions and Duties to Appropriate State and Municipal Departments and Agencies"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Study the Structure of County Government and Possible Options to Reform the Delivery of County Functions'

Further amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, it is necessary that the functions and efficacy of county government be studied and evaluated; and

Whereas, it is necessary that these actions be started as soon as possible to permit the results of the study to be available to the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature; 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, '

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Commission established. There is established the

1 Commission to Study the Functions of County Government and the
2 Redistribution of County Functions. The commission shall study
3 and advise the Legislature on the reassignment of the functions
4 of county government to appropriate state and municipal
5 departments. The commission shall be composed of 9 members as
6 follows: 4 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate; and
7 5 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The commission must
9 have at least 5 members from the Joint Standing Committee on
10 State and Local Government. The President of the Senate and the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make these
12 appointments by July 15, 1989, and shall notify the Executive
13 Director of the Legislative Council upon making the
14 appointments. The chair of the Legislative Council shall call
15 the first meeting of the commission by July 30, 1989. The
16 commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

17

1. Duties. The study commission shall:

19

A. Undertake a study of the functions performed by county
20 government;

21

22 B. Prepare an inventory of those functions, by county if
23 differing county government functions require;

25

26 C. Determine the efficacy of county government as a means
27 of performing those functions and shall recommend
28 appropriate state and municipal departments that could
29 perform those functions more efficiently, if possible;

27

30 D. As far as possible, identify the potential savings or
31 cost to each branch of government that would occur as a
32 result of the proposed reassignment of functions;

33

34 E. Evaluate the effects of abolishing county government and
35 provide recommendations to the Legislature in this regard;
36 and

37

38 F. Suggest any legislation necessary to achieve the
39 commission's recommendations.

41

42 2. Staff; compensation. The study commission shall request
43 necessary staff assistance from the Legislative Council.
44 Legislative members shall receive the legislative per diem as
45 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for
46 each day's attendance at commission meetings and reimbursement
47 for travel and other necessary expenses upon application to the
48 Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

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50 3. Reports. The study commission shall present a report of
51 its findings and recommendations together with any recommended
legislation to the Legislature by December 1, 1989, and shall

1 submit the report by January 1, 1990.

3 4. Budget. The Executive Director of the Legislative
Council shall administer the commission's budget.

5

7 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

9

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13 Study Commission - Funding

15	Personal Services	\$2,970
	All Other	5,000

17

19 Provides funds for the per
diem, travel and related
21 expenses of the Commission to
Study the Functions of County
Government and the
23 Redistribution of County
Functions.

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TOTAL

\$7,970

29 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

31

33 STATEMENT OF FACT

35 This amendment completely replaces the bill. The amendment
deletes those provisions of the original bill that abolished
37 county government. The amendment establishes a study commission
to investigate the efficacy of county government in its present
39 form and to recommend ways in which county government could be
reformed and also makes the bill an emergency. The amendment
41 also adds an appropriation.

Reported by the Minority for the Committee on State and
Local Government. Reproduced and Distributed Pursuant to
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(6/16/89)

(Filing No. S-316)