

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 817

S.P. 312

In Senate, March 20, 1989

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

Handwritten signature of Joy J. O'Brien in cursive.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KANY of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin, Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake and Senator DILLENBACK of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

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.



1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA Pt. 1,** as amended, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 2. Reassignment of functions, duties and powers.** If this Act
is approved under section 4, the Legislature shall, prior to the
7 effective date of this Act, enact legislation assigning the
current functions, duties and powers of county government to
9 appropriate state and municipal departments and agencies.

11 **Sec. 3. Commission established.** There is established the
Commission to Study the Redistribution of County Functions. The
13 commission shall study and advise the Legislature on the
reassignment of the functions of county government to appropriate
15 state and municipal departments. The commission shall be
composed of 9 members as follows: four Senators appointed by the
17 President of the Senate; and 5 Representatives, appointed by the
Speaker of the House.

19 1. **Duties.** The study commission shall undertake to make
21 recommendations to reassign functions of county government
to appropriate state and municipal departments.

23 2. **Staff; compensation.** The study commission shall request
25 necessary staff assistance from the Legislative Council.
Legislative members shall receive per diem compensation.

27 3. **Reports.** The study commission shall present its
29 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 1989.

31 **Sec. 4. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide
election; effective date.** This Act shall be submitted to the legal
33 voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election to be held
on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November 1990
35 following passage of this Act. The city aldermen, town selectmen
and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the
37 inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to
meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
39 election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by
voting on the following question:

41 "Shall county government be abolished and its functions and
43 duties reassigned to appropriate state and municipal
departments and agencies?"

45 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
47 vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
49 below the word "Yes" or "No". The ballots shall be received,
sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
51 meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same
manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
53 shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of

1 the legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
2 proclaim that fact without delay, and section 2 of this Act shall
3 become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.
4 Section 1 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 1991.

5

6 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
7 city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
8 Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

9

10 STATEMENT OF FACT

11

12 The purpose of this bill is to provide for a referendum vote
13 to abolish county government. If the bill is approved, the
14 Legislature will enact legislation reassigning existing county
15 functions, duties and powers to appropriate state and municipal
16 departments and agencies.

17