

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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No. 1441

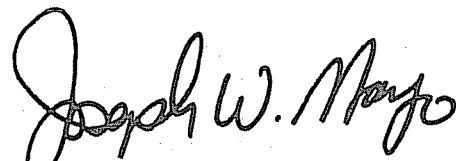
H.P. 1075

House of Representatives, May 5, 1993

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Knox County Budget
Committee.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MELENDY of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOWERS of Washington, GRAY of Sedgwick, NASH of
Camden, SIMONEAU of Thomaston, SKOGLUND of St. George, Senators: FOSTER of
Hancock, PINGREE of Knox.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §751, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 548,
Pt. C, §4, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Membership.** The budget committee consists of 9 members
7 who are elected from districts defined in section 757 and as
8 provided in this subsection. Each committee member ~~shall serve~~
9 serves a 4-year term, ~~with the exception of the initial committee~~
10 ~~members whose terms are described in section 757.~~

12 A. Budget committee members must be elected on the Tuesday
13 following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered
14 year beginning in 1994. Each term begins January 1st of the
15 year following the election.

16 B. Nominations for the office of budget committee member
17 must be nonpartisan and be made by petition in accordance
18 with Title 21-A, chapter 5, subchapter II, except that
19 candidates need not verify by oath or affirmation that they
20 are not enrolled in a party and the number of signatures of
21 voters must be at least 25 and not more than 40 on a
22 nomination petition for a candidate in each district
23 subdivision. The election must be conducted and the results
24 determined as provided for in the election of county
25 commissioners in section 61. Costs for reproduction and
26 distribution of ballots must be paid by Knox County.

28 C. The budget committee shall elect annually a chair from
29 among its members.

32 D. A vacancy occurring on the budget committee must be
33 filled by the committee, subject to confirmation by a
34 majority of the county commissioners, for the balance of the
35 unexpired term. The person appointed to fill the vacant
36 office must be from the same municipality or unorganized
37 territory as the person vacating the office.

38 E. Members ~~shall~~ serve without compensation.

40 F. The county budget committee shall review the itemized
41 estimated budget prepared by the county commissioners,
42 prepare a proposed budget and after a public hearing approve
43 a final budget.

46 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §753, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 257,
47 is amended to read:

48 **1. Proposed budget.** The county commissioners shall submit
49 an itemized estimated budget, as described in sections 701, 702

2 and 7503, in the form of a budget, to the budget committee in a
4 timely fashion no later than 60 days before the end of the
6 county's fiscal year. This budget submission must include all
8 revenue sources included by the county commissioners in arriving
10 at their budget estimates. Notwithstanding the provisions of
12 section 921, reserve accounts and other funds that are retained
14 by the county must be presented to the budget committee for their
16 review and may be used by the budget committee to reduce the tax
18 levy.

10 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §753, sub-§2, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1991, c.
12 257, is amended to read:

14 A. The budget committee records in its minutes an
16 explanation for any suggested change in the estimated
18 expenditures and revenues and use of any county funds as
initially presented by the county commissioners; and

20 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §756,** as amended by PL 1991, c. 548, Pt. C,
§5, is repealed.

22 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §757, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1991, c. 548,
24 Pt. C, §6, is further amended to read:

26 One budget committee member must be elected from each of the
28 following districts, with the exception of district 3, which
30 shall elect 2 members at large. The county commissioners shall
32 redistrict these seats by June 1, 1993 and every 10 years
34 thereafter. The county commissioners shall provide the Secretary
of State with the descriptions of the new districts within 30
days of adoption of each redistricting. The Secretary of State
shall transmit the redistricting plan to the Legislature for
review and enactment. The budget committee member districts are
as follows.

38 STATEMENT OF FACT

40 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing
the Knox County Budget Committee.

42 1. It removes the exception for initial committee members
44 from the 4-year term limitation.

46 2. It requires that the proposed budget include all revenue
48 sources used by the county commissioners in arriving at their
budget estimates. It also specifies that reserve accounts and
50 funds retained by the county may be used by the budget committee
to reduce the tax levy.

2 3. It requires that the budget committee record in its
minutes an explanation for any change in the use of county funds.

4
6 4. It repeals the section of law providing for the
selection of the initial members of the budget committee.

8 5. It requires that the Secretary of State transmit the
redistricting plan to the Legislature for review and enactment.