

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1595

H.P. 1162

House of Representatives, November 29, 1995

**An Act to Increase the Number of Washington County Commissioners
from 3 to 5.**

(EMERGENCY)

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township.
Cosponsored by Senator CASSIDY of Washington and
Representatives: BAILEY of Township 27, DRISCOLL of Calais, LAYTON of Cherryfield,
LOOK of Jonesboro.

2 **Mandate preamble.** This measure requires one or more local
units of government to expand or modify activities so as to
4 necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does
not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures.
6 Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21,
two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have
determined it necessary to enact this measure.

8
10 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

12
14 **Whereas,** currently there is not a means of replacing county
commissioners who are unable to perform their duties due to
illness or other incapacitating circumstances; and

16
18 **Whereas,** in Washington County, there is currently a county
commissioner who cannot perform the duties of office; and

20 **Whereas,** this has effectively left one county commissioner
district without representation, and has hampered the ability of
22 the other county commissioners to maintain a quorum; and

24 **Whereas,** the creation of 2 more county commissioners, to be
elected and serve at large, would alleviate the problem by giving
26 all county commissioner districts more than one commissioner; and

28 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
30 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
32 safety; now, therefore,

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

36 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §66, sub-§15,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 554,
§1, is further amended to read:

38
40 **15. Creation of Washington County Commissioner Districts.**
Washington County is divided into the following 3 districts.

42 A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the
municipalities of Alexander, Baileyville, Baring Plantation,
44 Calais, Charlotte, Codyville Plantation, Cooper, Crawford,
Danforth, Grand Lake Stream Plantation, Meddybemps,
46 Princeton, Robbinston, Talmadge, Topsfield, Waite and
Vanceboro, Indian Township and the unorganized territory of
48 North Washington. The term of office of the commissioner
from this district expires in 1988 and every 4 years
50 thereafter.

2 B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the
3 municipalities of Beddington, Centerville, Cutler, Deblois,
4 Dennysville, East Machias, Eastport, Lubec, Machiasport,
5 Marshfield, Northfield, Pembroke, Perry, Wesley, Whiting and
6 Whitneyville, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Indian
7 Reservation and the unorganized territories of East Central
8 Washington and North Washington. The term of office of the
9 commissioner from this district expires in 1988 and every 4
10 years thereafter.

12 C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the
13 municipalities of Addison, Beals, Cherryfield, Columbia,
14 Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machias,
15 Milbridge, Roque Bluffs and Steuben. The term of office of
16 the commissioner from this district expires in 1990 and
17 every 4 years thereafter.

18 In addition to the commissioners from the districts specified in
19 paragraphs A, B and C, 2 commissioners must be elected at large.
20 The terms of office of the at-large commissioners expire in 1998
21 and every 4 years thereafter.

24 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
25 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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FISCAL NOTE

30 This bill requires Washington County to incur additional
31 costs for 2 new county commissioners and for the costs of a
32 special election. The additional costs of this state mandate are
33 expected to be minor. Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the 2/3
34 vote of all members elected to each House exempts the State from
35 the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional
36 local costs.

38

STATEMENT OF FACT

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42 This bill increases the number of Washington County
commissioners by creating 2 at-large commissioner positions.