

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

Legislative Document

No. 1844

S.P. 735

In Senate, March 11, 1996

**An Act Authorizing County Commissioners to Enact Ordinances
Concerning Addressing Standards for Enhanced 9-1-1 Services in the
Unorganized Territories.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator AMERO of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative DONNELLY of Presque Isle and
Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, CASSIDY of Washington, HALL of Piscataquis, KIEFFER
of Aroostook, MICHAUD of Penobscot, MILLS of Somerset, Representatives: CLARK of
Millinocket, GOULD of Greenville, LOOK of Jonesboro, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket.

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

4
6 Whereas, the State is attempting to begin implementation of
enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone services throughout the State
no later than December 1997; and

8
10 Whereas, county commissioners have responsibility for
providing services to the unorganized territories and, therefore,
have been designated by state public safety officials to assign
12 and maintain physical addresses for the purpose of enhanced 9-1-1
services in the unorganized territories; and

14
16 Whereas, there is a question whether this function
constitutes a "service" within the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
30-A, section 7501; and

18
20 Whereas, the process of physical addressing may take as much
as 2 years to complete; and

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

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

30 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §7501, sub-§§6 and 7,** as amended by PL 1989,
c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, are further amended to read:

32
34 **6. Other services.** Any other service ~~which~~ that a
municipality may provide for its inhabitants and ~~which~~ that is
not provided by the State; and

36 **7. Law enforcement.** Law enforcement; and

38 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §7501, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

40
42 **8. Enhanced 9-1-1 service.** Assigning and maintaining
physical addresses specifically for the purpose of statewide
enhanced 9-1-1 service. The county commissioners may enact an
44 ordinance to establish the addressing standards and, pursuant to
that ordinance, may assign road names to existing and proposed
46 roads and property numbers to existing and proposed year-round
and seasonal dwellings or structures and may install signs
48 designating road names.

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

6 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

8 In order to provide enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone
10 services in the unorganized territories, the county commissioners
12 must assign and maintain physical addresses. The Attorney
14 General has expressed the opinion that this does not constitute a
16 "service" within the meaning of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
30-A, section 7501, subsection 6. This bill provides specific
statutory authority to permit the county commissioners to enact
an ordinance to establish standards for assigning and maintaining
physical addresses for the purpose of enhanced 9-1-1 service in
the unorganized territories.