

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1135, L.D. 1591, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Washington County Budget Process"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the emergency preamble the following:

'Mandate preamble. This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. 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.'

Further amend the bill in section 3 by striking out all of that part designated "§900-B-1." and inserting in its place the following:

'§900-B-1. Prior year's budget available

Annually by September 15th, the county commissioners shall publish, deliver to the budget advisory committee and make available to the public copies of a financial statement for the preceding county fiscal year showing funds authorized, including but not limited to revenues, unappropriated fund balances and reserve accounts, and expenditures made for each department, account and program and showing the balance in each account at the end of the fiscal year.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. S.

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2 Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated  
"§900-D." by striking out all of the 2nd paragraph (page 2, lines  
31 to 47 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

4  
6 'If, following negotiations, a final budget that is  
8 acceptable to the budget advisory committee is not approved by  
10 the county commissioners by December 15th, the budget advisory  
12 committee shall adopt a final budget and transmit that budget to  
14 the county commissioners. The budget adopted by the budget  
16 advisory committee may be changed by a majority vote of the board  
18 of county commissioners. If the adopted budget is changed by the  
20 county commissioners, the budget advisory committee may reject  
that change by a 2/3 vote of its membership. The budget is final  
and not subject to further action by either the county  
commissioners or the budget advisory committee upon failure of  
the commissioners to recommend changes in the budget transmitted  
from the budget advisory committee or upon acceptance or rejection  
of changes by the budget advisory committee. The entire budget  
approval process must be completed by December 31st.'

22 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
summary the following:

24  
26 **FISCAL NOTE**

28 This bill requires that the Washington County commissioners  
publish and make available copies of comprehensive financial  
30 statements to the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee and  
the public. The additional local costs of publishing and  
32 reproducing comprehensive financial statements are not expected  
to be significant. Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the  
34 two-thirds vote of all members elected to each House exempts the  
State from the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the  
36 additional local costs.'

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This amendment expands the requirement in the bill that the  
Washington County Commissioners publish the prior year's budget  
42 and make copies available to the Washington County Budget  
Advisory Committee and the public by requiring that a  
44 comprehensive financial statement for the preceding year be  
published and made available. The amendment also removes the  
46 involvement of the Washington County legislative delegation in  
arbitrating budget disagreements between the county commissioners  
48 and the budget advisory committee. The amendment authorizes the  
budget advisory committee to adopt and submit a final budget to  
50 the county commissioners if the commissioners do not approve a

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2 budget acceptable to the budget committee by December 15th. The  
3 county commissioners may change the budget committee's budget by  
4 a majority vote. If the county commissioners change the budget  
5 committee's budget, the committee may reject the change by a 2/3  
6 vote of the full committee. The amendment also adds a fiscal  
note to the bill.

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