

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 299

DATE: 3/20/2000

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 221, L.D. 299, Bill, "An Act to Create a Governance System for Unorganized Towns"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of the emergency preamble (page 1, lines 32 to 46 and page 2, lines 1 to 5 in amendment) and inserting in its place the following:

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

Whereas, several residents of the unorganized territories of Maine have expressed their desire for greater self-governance; and

Whereas, the current system of providing services to the inhabitants of the unorganized territories has a significant financial impact on both the State and the inhabitants of the unorganized territories; and

Whereas, the methods and means of permitting greater self-governance by inhabitants of the unorganized territories should now be investigated; and

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

SENATE AMENDMENT

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of section 2
and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the committee consists of
the following members.

1. Seventeen members are appointed as follows:

A. Two members of the Senate, at least one of whom serves
on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
Government, appointed by the President of the Senate;

B. Three members of the House of Representatives, 2 of whom
serve on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
Government, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

C. Four residents of the unorganized territories, at least
3 of whom represent the 3 major regions of the State, north,
central and south, appointed by the Governor;

D. One member who is an active member of a board of county
commissioners, appointed by the Governor;

E. One representative of the Maine County Commissioners
Association, appointed by the Governor;

F. Two representatives of the public who do not reside in
unorganized territories, appointed by the Governor; and

G. Four landowners representing corporate, family and
individual land ownerships, appointed by the Governor.

2. The following 3 persons participate as nonvoting ex
officio members:

A. The Director of the State Planning Office or the
director's designee;

B. The Commissioner of Conservation or the commissioner's
designee; and

C. The State Tax Assessor or the State Tax Assessor's
designee; and be it further'

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of section 5
and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the committee shall study and
make recommendations concerning the following:

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 221,
L.D. 299

1. The effectiveness of the current governance structure and associated problems, including barriers to citizen participation;

2. The need for and feasibility of establishing mechanisms within the context of the current system designed to promote greater citizen participation in the governance of the unorganized territories;

3. Any proposals for improving the current governance by allowing greater citizen participation on matters of real estate taxation, education and other typical local governance issues; and

4. The extent to which changes in the governance structure of the unorganized territories may financially affect residents and property owners of the unorganized territories and the State.

In carrying out its duties, the committee may seek the expertise of the Department of Education, the Department of Audit, the Secretary of State and the Maine County Commissioners Association; and be it further'

Further amend the amendment in section 8 in the 6th line (page 4, line 12 in amendment) by striking out the following: "December 15, 2000" and inserting in its place the following: 'November 1, 2000'

Further amend the amendment in section 10 by striking out all of the 8th and 9th lines (page 4, lines 43 and 44 in amendment) and inserting in their place the following:

'Personal Services	\$1,650
All Other	5,600'

Further amend the amendment in section 10 in the last line (page 5, line 2 in amendment) by striking out the following: "\$7,325" and inserting in its place the following: '\$7,250'

FISCAL NOTE

This amendment reduces the General Fund cost of the bill by \$75 in fiscal year 2000-01.

As amended, this resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$7,250 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and expenses for other eligible members of the Committee to Study the Governance of the Unorganized Territories of Maine and to print the required report.

SENATE AMENDMENT

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 221,
L.D. 299


The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the committee during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting deadline is granted and the committee requires staffing assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for staff services.

The State Planning Office, the Department of Conservation and the Bureau of Revenue Services will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members of the committee. These costs can be absorbed within the agencies' existing budgeted resources.

The additional costs associated with providing assistance to the committee can be absorbed by the Department of Audit, the Department of Education and the Department of the Secretary of State utilizing existing budgeted resources.

SUMMARY

This amendment changes the membership, duties of the Committee to Study the Governance of the Unorganized Territories of Maine and its reporting date. The committee is charged with examining and exploring options for greater self-governance for the unorganized territories.

SPONSORED BY: 
(Senator PENDLETON)

COUNTY: Cumberland