

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 970

DATE: 5-4-99

(Filing No. H-407)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 703, L.D. 970, "Resolve, Authorizing the Knox County Commissioners to Borrow Not More than \$2,500,000 for Construction or Renovation of a District Court and Office Areas in Knox County"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Authorizing the Knox County Commissioners to Borrow Not More than \$1,000,000 for Construction or Renovation of a District Court and Office Areas in Knox County'

Further amend the resolve 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 resolve by inserting after the 3rd indented paragraph the following:

'Whereas, the county commissioners must begin the necessary preparation of the ballot to be presented to voters of Knox County; and'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 703, L.D. 970

2 Further amend the resolve in section 1 in the first  
paragraph in the 3rd line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by striking  
4 out the following: "\$2,500,000" and inserting in its place the  
following: '\$1,000,000'

6 Further amend the resolve in section 1 in the last paragraph  
in the last line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by striking out the  
8 following: "." and inserting in its place the following: '; and  
be it further'

10 Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 1 the  
12 following:

14 '**Sec. 2. Referendum for ratification. Resolved:** That this  
resolve must be submitted to the legal voters of Knox County.  
16 The dates of submission must be determined by the Knox County  
commissioners, but may not be later than 18 months after  
18 adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 119th  
Legislature. The Knox County commissioners are authorized to  
20 expend the funds necessary to implement the referendum.

22 The county commissioners shall cause the preparation of the  
required ballots on which the county commissioners shall state  
24 the subject matter of this resolve in the following question:

26 "Do you favor authorizing the Knox County commissioners to  
borrow an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for construction  
28 or renovation of the District Court and office areas in Knox  
County?"

30 The voters shall indicate by a cross or a check mark placed  
32 against the word "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the question.

34 This resolve takes effect immediately upon its acceptance by  
a majority of the legal voters voting at the election if the  
36 total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this  
resolve equals or exceeds 30% of the total votes for all  
38 candidates for Governor cast in the most recent gubernatorial  
election in the county. If at the first election the total  
40 number of votes for and against acceptance of this resolve is  
less than 30% of the total votes for all candidates for Governor  
42 cast in the most recent gubernatorial election, the county  
commissioners may submit the question to voters not more than one  
44 other time within the time prescribed in this section.'

46 Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the  
summary the following:

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**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

A.S.

**FISCAL NOTE**

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This resolve requires Knox County to hold a referendum to approve borrowing of up to \$1,000,000. The additional costs of this state mandate can not be determined at this time. Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the two-thirds vote of all members elected to each House exempts the State from the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional local costs.

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The Judicial Department may require additional General Fund appropriations annually to fund the additional costs for debt service, building maintenance and janitorial services should Knox County decide to borrow up to \$1,000,000 for construction or renovation of a district court as authorized by this resolve. Some of these additional costs will be offset by reductions of rental costs paid to Knox County. The net cost of this resolve can not be determined at this time.

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The Judicial Department is currently planning to utilize funding through the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority for renovations to the District Court in Knox County. The outcome of the referendum will affect these plans and the amount of funding that may be proposed for financing through the authority.'

**26**

**SUMMARY**

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This amendment changes the title, reduces the amount to be borrowed from \$2,500,000 to \$1,000,000 and authorizes the Knox County Commissioners to hold a county-wide referendum to authorize the commissioners to borrow funds to build or renovate the District Court and office areas in Knox County.

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This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the resolve.