

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 92

H.P. 85

House of Representatives, January 11, 2001

An Act to Establish the Washington County Emergency Medical Services Authority.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.
Cosponsored by President MICHAUD of Penobscot and
Representatives: BAGLEY of Machias, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, DUGAY of
Cherryfield, MORRISON of Baileyville, Speaker SAXL of Portland, STANLEY of Medway,
TUTTLE of Sanford, Senator: SHOREY of Washington.

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,** Washington County is currently without emergency
medical services; and

8 **Whereas,** this situation places the entire population of that
county at enormous risk; and

10
12 **Whereas,** it is imperative that this situation be rectified
immediately; and

14 **Whereas,** in order to secure emergency medical services for
Washington County it is necessary to create a quasi-municipal
corporation to provide such services; and

18 **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,

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

26 **Sec. 1. Establishment.** The Washington County Emergency
Medical Services Authority, referred to in this Act as "the
authority," is established to facilitate the provision of
emergency medical services to the citizens of Washington County.

30 **Sec. 2. Board of directors.** The authority is governed by a
board of directors, referred to in this Act as "the board." The
board consists of:

34 1. One member appointed by the Washington County
Commissioners to represent the unorganized territories; and

38 2. One member from:

40 A. Eastport, selected by its city council;

42 B. Perry, selected by its selectmen;

44 C. Pembroke, selected by its selectmen;

46 D. Dennysville, selected by its selectmen;

48 E. Whiting, selected by its selectmen;

50 F. Lubec, selected by its selectmen;

- 2 G. Charlotte, selected by its selectmen;
4 H. Meddybemps, selected by its selectmen;
6 I. Wesley, selected by its selectmen;
8 J. Calais, selected by its city council;
10 K. Cooper, selected by its selectmen;
12 L. Crawford, selected by its selectmen;
14 M. Robbinston, selected by its selectmen;
16 N. Alexander, selected by its selectmen;
18 O. Danforth, selected by its selectmen; and
20 P. Baring, selected by its assessors.

22 The members of the board are appointed for terms of one year
and may be reappointed at the pleasure of the appointing
24 authority.

26 **Sec. 3. Powers.** The authority may:

28 1. Employ and compensate personnel, consultants, technical
and professional assistants and an emergency medical services
30 medical director;

32 2. Make and enter into contracts and agreements;

34 3. Hold public hearings and sponsor public forums;

36 4. Sue and be sued in its own name;

38 5. Accept funds, grants and services from federal, state,
county and municipal governments or any agency thereof, gifts and
40 stipends from its member towns, private gifts from entities and
foundations and stipends and subsidies from Canadian governments
42 for the provision of services to Campobello Island and the
Province of New Brunswick; and
44

46 6. Allocate and disburse funds received to promote the
authority.

48 **Sec. 4. Duties.** The authority shall:

50 1. Prepare an annual budget;

2 2. Follow uniform standards provided in Maine statutes
insofar as they relate to Department of Public Safety rules;

4
6 3. Make provisions for emergency medical services in the
county on a contract basis where new services are to be provided;
however, where emergency medical services are already provided by
8 existing services, they are not abolished by this Act without the
express consent of the governing body of the area and vote of the
10 existing medical services' board;

12 4. Implement a county-wide subscription membership program
unless otherwise prohibited by law; and

14
16 5. Set and adjust an approved cost-basis schedule that is
uniform throughout the county.

18 **Sec. 5. Organization; conduct of business; meetings.** The board
must be organized and its business must be conducted in
20 accordance with the following:

22 1. The board shall elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and
treasurer from among its members.

24
26 2. The secretary shall keep a record of the board's
meetings. These records are public records.

28 3. The treasurer shall keep records of the board's
transactions. These records are public records.

30
32 4. The treasurer must be bonded in an amount to be
determined by the board.

34 5. A quorum of the board is 6 members and must include the
chair or vice-chair and the secretary or treasurer of the board.

36
38 6. The board shall adopt such bylaws and mission statements
as are necessary for the legal operation and proper management of
the authority.

40 **Sec. 6. Meetings.** The bylaws shall establish the annual
42 meeting of the board. Additional meetings may be scheduled at
the call of the chair or at the written request of any 5 members
44 of the board.

46 A member who fails to attend board meetings 5 consecutive
times may be replaced by the appointing authority. Notification
48 of such absences from the secretary of the board to the
appointing authority is sufficient to trigger the appointment of
50 a replacement board member by the appointing authority.

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

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SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Washington County Emergency
Medical Services Authority.