

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 982

H.P. 763

House of Representatives, February 20, 2001

**An Act to Promote Efficiency in County Government in the
Androscoggin County Budget Process.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MENDROS of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §721**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 253, §1, is
4 further amended to read:

6 **§721. Purpose**

8 The purpose of this article is to establish in Androscoggin
10 County a method of appropriating money for county expenditures,
12 including the salaries for county officers, according to a budget
14 that must first be adopted by a budget committee and must then be
16 submitted to the county commissioners. This article amends the
18 statutory method in sections 2, 701 and 702 by creating a
20 committee elected by Androscoggin County municipal officers with
authority to adopt or amend the budget subject to review and
revision by the county commissioners ~~and, if revised, subject to
subsequent acceptance or rejection by the budget committee as
provided in this article.~~ This article applies only to
Androscoggin County.

22 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §723, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 253,
§4, is further amended to read:

24 **2. Duties.** The county budget committee shall review the
26 budget and estimates, including the salaries for county officers,
28 prepared by the county commissioners, and shall ~~approve~~ recommend
a final county budget as provided in this article.

30 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §725, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 253,
§5, is further amended to read:

32 **5. Adoption of budget.** After the public hearing or
34 hearings held under subsection 4 are completed, the budget
committee shall adopt a final budget and transmit that budget to
the county commissioners. The county commissioners may ~~not~~
36 revise the budget adopted by the budget committee, ~~except by
unanimous vote of the commissioners elected. If the adopted
budget is changed by the county commissioners, the budget
committee may reject that change by a 2/3 vote of its~~
40 membership. Those actions are final and are not subject to
further action by either county commissioners or the budget
42 committee. The budget and the capital improvement program
submitted under subsection 1 must be finally adopted by a
44 majority vote of the ~~budget committee~~ county commissioners at a
duly called meeting held before the end of the county's fiscal
46 year.

48 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §726**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 253, §9, is
50 further amended to read:

§726. Budget amendments

The approved budget governs the expenditures of the county during the fiscal year. No expenses may be incurred in excess of those shown in the approved budget, but the county commissioners may transfer funds as provided in section 922, and the budget may be from time to time revised by the preparation and submission of a proposed amended budget by the county commissioners to the budget committee. The budget committee shall within 15 calendar days approve, disapprove or amend this revised budget. A report of approval of a revised budget must be transmitted to the State Auditor within 15 days of the approval.

SUMMARY

This bill transfers final budget authority in Androscoggin County from the budget committee to the county commissioners.