

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 985

H.P. 766

House of Representatives, February 20, 2001

Resolve, Creating a Governance System for Unorganized Towns.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative KASPRZAK of Newport.

Cosponsored by Representatives: McNEIL of Rockland, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton.

2 **Sec. 1. Committee established. Resolved:** That the Committee to
Study the Governance of the Unorganized Territories of Maine,
4 referred to in this resolve as the "committee," is established;
and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the committee consists of
15 members appointed as follows:

8
10 1. Two members of the Senate, at least one of whom serves
on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,
12 appointed by the President of the Senate;

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

18 3. The Executive Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation
Commission, or the executive director's designee;

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

24 5. One member who is a county commissioner from a county
that consists in part of unorganized territories, appointed by
26 the Governor;

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

30
32 7. One representative of the Maine Municipal Association,
appointed by the Governor; and

34 8. Two representatives of the public who do not reside in
unorganized territories, appointed by the Governor; and be it
36 further

38 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
serves as the Senate chair and the first named House member
40 serves as the House chair; and be it further

42 **Sec. 4. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must
be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of
44 this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the
Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their
46 appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete,
the cochairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the
48 committee no later than 15 days after the final member is
appointed; and be it further

50

2 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the committee shall study and
make recommendations concerning:

4 1. The feasibility of establishing an alternative system of
governance in the unorganized territories such as the system
6 described in the report of the subcommittee of the Joint Standing
Committee on State and Local Government on Legislative Document
8 299, dated December 6, 1999, which proposes to amend the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 30-A by establishing chapter 306,
10 Governance of Unorganized Towns or Deorganized Municipalities;

12 2. The processes by which residents of the unorganized
territories in which an alternative system of governance, such as
14 the system described in the subcommittee report on Legislative
Document 299, has been proposed will be informed of the changes
16 that may result from establishing the new governance system;

18 3. The extent to which changes in the governance structure
of the unorganized territories, such as those proposed in the
20 subcommittee report on Legislative Document 299, may financially
affect residents of the unorganized territories and of the State;
22 and

24 4. The extent to which changes in the governance structure
of the unorganized territories, such as those proposed in the
26 subcommittee report on Legislative Document 299, may affect the
provision of services to the inhabitants of the unorganized
28 territories.

30 In carrying out its duties, the committee may seek the
expertise of the Department of Education, the Department of
32 Audit, the Bureau of Revenue Services within the Department of
Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of the
34 Secretary of State; and be it further

36 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
38 shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee; and
be it further

40 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That legislative members are
entitled to receive legislative per diem and reimbursement of
42 necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of
the committee. Public members, not otherwise compensated by
44 their employers or other entities who they represent, are
entitled to receive reimbursement for necessary expenses for
46 their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee; and be
48 it further

2 **Sec. 8. Reporting date established. Resolved:** That the committee
3 shall submit a report with recommendations and any accompanying
4 legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
5 Government by December 15, 2001. Following the receipt of the
6 report, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
7 Government may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of
8 the 120th Legislature. If the committee requires a limited
9 extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the
10 Legislative Council, who may grant the extension; and be it
11 further

12 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the cochairs of the committee,
13 with assistance from the committee staff, shall administer the
14 committee budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
15 committee shall present its work plan and proposed budget to the
16 Legislative Council for approval. The committee may not incur
17 expenses that would result in the committee exceeding its
18 approved budget. Upon request of the committee, the Executive
19 Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
20 committee cochairs and staff with a status report on the
21 committee budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
22 funds; and be it further

23 **Sec. 10. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
24 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
25 this resolve.

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27
28 **2001-02**

29 **LEGISLATURE**

30 **Committee to Study the Governance of**
31 **the Unorganized Territories of Maine**

32
33 Personal Services \$1,925
34 All Other 5,400

35
36
37 Provides funds for the per diem and expenses
38 of legislative members and expenses for
39 other eligible members of the Committee to
40 Study the Governance of the Unorganized
41 Territories of Maine and to print the
42 required report.

43 **LEGISLATURE**

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45 **TOTAL** \$7,325

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SUMMARY

4 This resolve establishes the 15-member Committee to Study
the Governance of the Unorganized Territories of Maine. The
6 resolve charges the committee with examining the feasibility of
establishing an alternative system of governance for the
8 unorganized territories, such as that proposed in the report of
the subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on State and
10 Local Government on Legislative Document 299. The resolve sets a
reporting deadline of December 15, 2001.