

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to S.P. 391, L.D. 1287, Bill, "An Act Concerning the Administration of County Government"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §124**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 14, §1, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The procurement of goods or services pursuant to this section that involves the expenditure of \$10,000 or less may be accepted by oral proposal or bids.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 5 and 6 and inserting in their place the following:

'**Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §924**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 573, §3, is further amended to read:

§924. Surplus funds

The county commissioners of each county shall use the ~~unexpended balances and the actual revenue in excess of estimates from the previous~~ any unencumbered surplus funds at the end of a fiscal year in the following fiscal year only as provided in this section, except that the Androscoggin County commissioners shall act in accordance with section 725, subsection 9.

1. Restore contingent fund. The county commissioners shall first use any unencumbered surplus funds to restore the contingent account as provided in section 922, subsection 2.

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SUMMARY

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6 This amendment adds a new section that defines "unencumbered
surplus funds" and inserts that term in the place of "unexpended
balance" and "actual revenue in excess of estimates" in the law
8 governing the use of surplus funds by counties. The amendment
also requires counties to consider surpluses from all prior years
10 rather than the only the preceding year in complying with the
provisions of the laws governing use of surplus funds. It also
12 clarifies the sequence of uses of the county surplus in existing
law. The amendment increases from 10% to 20%, phased in over 3
14 years, the amount of surplus funds a county may retain for
purposes other than reducing the amount of the tax levy in a
16 fiscal year. Finally, the amendment permits counties to make
expenditures of \$10,000 or less for the procurement of goods and
18 services through oral proposals or bids. The amendment also adds
a fiscal note to the bill.