

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1672

S.P. 541

In Senate, March 15, 2001

An Act to Create the Washington County Development Authority.

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SHOREY of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke and
Senator TURNER of Cumberland, Representatives: BAGLEY of Machias, BUNKER of
Kossuth Township, DUGAY of Cherryfield, MORRISON of Baileyville, SOCTOMAH of
Passamaquoddy Tribe.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. Washington County Development Authority established;**
6 **incorporation; purposes.** The territory, cities, towns and
8 plantations that on the effective date of this Act comprise
10 Washington County constitute a body politic and corporate to be
12 known as the Washington County Development Authority, referred to
14 in this Act as the "authority," for the benefit and welfare of
16 the inhabitants of Washington County and to:

18 1. Strengthen the financial condition of local governments
20 within the geographic territory of the authority while combining
22 resources and sharing costs for meeting regional economic
24 development needs and challenges;

26 2. Promote and develop infrastructure and programs for
28 employment and economic development opportunities and other
30 conditions to positively affect regional development;

32 3. Provide an organization to enable economic development
34 among local governments and agencies and to promote cooperative
36 economic development and coordinated action among members;

38 4. Serve as a forum to identify, discuss, study and focus
40 on regional economic development challenges and opportunities;

42 5. Provide a mechanism for the preparation, maintenance and
44 distribution of economic development strategies of the region;

46 6. Serve as a means for the collection and exchange of
economic development information;

 7. Actively promote and facilitate economic development
throughout the region;

 8. Speak on behalf of the membership of the authority;

 9. Coordinate with state and federal development programs;

 10. Make recommendations for review and action to its
members and other public agencies that perform economic
development and related functions within the region; and

 11. Coordinate and collaborate with other public and
quasi-governmental and private organizations in any manner that
is intended to promote economic development.

2 **Sec. 2. General powers.** In addition to the general powers
3 possessed by such an entity, and the powers granted by other
4 provisions of this Act, the authority has the power:

6 1. To borrow money and issue negotiable notes having such
7 terms and provisions as the general assembly of the authority
8 determines necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this
9 Act and for paying any indebtedness and any necessary expenses
10 and liabilities incurred therefore;

12 2. To contract for the receipt of funds to accomplish any
13 of the purposes set forth in this Act and to incur indebtedness
14 in anticipation of the receipt of such funds by issuing
15 negotiable notes payable in not more than 25 years. Those notes
16 may be renewed from time to time by the issuance of other notes.
17 However, notes may not be issued or renewed in an amount that, at
18 the time of issuance or renewal, exceeds the amount of funds
19 remaining to be paid under any such contracts, unless otherwise
20 allowed by law;

22 3. To accept funds, grants, gifts and services from the
23 Federal Government or federal agencies; from the State or its
24 departments, agencies or instrumentalities; from any other
25 governmental units, whether or not a member of the authority; and
26 from private and civic sources;

28 4. To exercise powers that are exercised separately or
29 jointly by member governments or are authorized by law to deal
30 with economic development needs or opportunities of local or
31 regional concern, including the power to:

32 A. Sue and be sued, complain and defend in its corporate
33 name;

34 B. Purchase; take; receive; lease; take by gift, devise or
35 bequest; acquire; own; hold; improve; use; and otherwise
36 deal in and with real or personal property or any interest
37 therein, wherever situated;

38 C. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,
39 transfer and otherwise dispose of all or any part of its
40 property and assets;

41 D. Purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, acquire, own,
42 hold, vote on, use, employ, sell, mortgage, loan, pledge or
43 otherwise dispose of and use and deal in and with shares or
44 other interest in or obligations of other domestic or
45 foreign corporations, whether profit or nonprofit;
46 associations; partnerships; joint ventures; or individuals,
47 or direct or indirect obligations of the United States or of
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2 any other government, state, territory, governmental
authority or municipality, or of any instrumentality thereof;

4 E. Make contracts and incur liabilities; borrow money;
6 issue notes, bonds and other obligations; and secure any of
its obligations by mortgage or pledge of all or any of its
8 property, franchises and income;

10 F. Lend money for its corporate purposes, invest and
reinvest its funds and take and hold real and personal
12 property as security for the payment of funds so loaned or
invested;

14 G. Spend money for its corporate purposes;

16 H. Conduct its affairs, carry on its operations, hold
property and have offices and exercise the powers granted by
18 the laws of the State;

20 I. Elect or appoint officers, employees and agents of the
corporation and define their duties and fix their
22 compensation;

24 J. Cease its corporate activities and surrender its
corporate franchise;

26 K. Have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to
28 effect any or all of the purposes for which the authority is
organized; and

30 L. Accept the cooperation of the Federal Government or its
32 agencies in the construction, maintenance, reconstruction,
operation and financing of the readjustment of any
34 decommissioned federal military facility located within the
county.

36 **Sec. 3. Governing body; general assembly; executive board.** Each
38 city, town or plantation located within the authority's
territory, upon voting to accept the provisions of this Act and
40 to become a member of the authority, is entitled to be
represented by at least one voting representative to the general
42 assembly of the authority, which is its overall governing body.

44 The secretary of the authority shall determine additional
voting representation in the following manner. Additional
46 representation on the general assembly must be based on the pro
rata state valuation of each city, town and plantation. When any
48 member city, town or plantation has a state valuation that is at
least 5% of the total aggregate state valuation of all member
50 cities, towns and plantations, it is entitled to one additional

2 representative to the general assembly for each full additional
3 5% that the amount of its state valuation is in comparison to the
4 total aggregate state valuation of all the member cities, towns
5 and plantations. The number of voting representatives to the
6 general assembly to which each member city, town and plantation
7 is entitled must be determined by the general assembly every 6
8 years after the initial or most recent determination using the
9 most recent state valuation. The municipal officers of each city,
10 town or plantation shall select and appoint its representative to
11 the general assembly.

12 The general assembly shall adopt bylaws for the governance
13 and operation of the authority. It shall meet at least quarterly
14 and shall provide for an executive board from its membership. The
15 executive board must have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 15
16 members at any one time and shall exercise the powers of the
17 governing body of the authority between meetings of the general
18 assembly as are delegated to it by the general assembly. A city,
19 town or plantation may not have more than one voting
20 representative serving on the executive board at any time. Any
21 city, town or plantation in which the authority is developing or
22 is operating a development project and that is a participating
23 member of the authority has the right to have a voting
24 representative on the executive board who is in addition to the
25 other members of the executive board. The general assembly or the
26 executive board may establish and appoint any committees that it
27 considers appropriate and necessary to the accomplishment of the
28 authority's purposes. The members of those committees may be
29 members of the general assembly and executive board and may also
30 include other persons representing a member city, town or
31 plantation or other organization that shares an interest with the
32 authority in promoting economic development.

34 Each year the general assembly shall elect a president, a
35 treasurer and a secretary and any other officers it considers
36 appropriate.

38 **Sec. 4. How financed.** To procure funds to carry out the
39 purpose of this Act the authority may, through a majority vote of
40 its general assembly, borrow money and issue general obligation
41 bonds and notes in anticipation therefor to an indebtedness not
42 to exceed 0.5% of the total state valuation of all participating
43 cities, towns and plantations.

44 Each bond or note must bear interest at rates as the
45 executive board of the general assembly may determine, payable
46 annually or semiannually and subject to other provisions as
47 determined by the general assembly. These bonds and notes may be
48 issued to mature serially or to run for such periods as the

2 general assembly determines but in no event may the maturity of
any term bond exceed 40 years.

4 All bonds may, at the discretion of the general assembly, be
made callable and the amount of premium to be paid on call and
6 the period for which these callable bonds may not be redeemable
must be left to the discretion of the general assembly. This
8 discretion may be manifested by a vote of the majority of the
general assembly.

10 All bonds and notes issued by the authority must be signed
12 by the treasurer and countersigned by the president of the
authority. If coupon bonds are issued, each coupon must be
14 attested by the facsimile signatures of the president and
treasurer printed on the coupons. These bonds and notes are legal
16 obligations of the authority, which is hereby declared to be a
quasi-municipal corporation within the meaning of the Maine
18 Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5701 and all the provisions
of that section apply to the authority. These bonds and notes are
20 legal investments in which all public officers and public bodies
of the State, its political subdivisions; all municipalities and
22 municipal subdivisions; all insurance companies and associations
and other persons carrying on an insurance business; all banks,
24 bankers, banking associations, trust companies, savings banks and
savings associations, including savings and loan associations,
26 building and loan associations, investment companies and other
persons carrying on a banking business; all administrators,
28 guardians, executors, trustees and other fiduciaries; and all
other persons who are, at the time of approval of this Act or may
30 hereafter be, authorized to invest in bonds or other obligations
of the State, may properly and legally invest funds, including
32 capital, in their control or belonging to them. The securities
are also, by this Act, made securities that may properly and
34 legally be deposited with and received by all public officers and
bodies of the State or any agency or political subdivision of the
36 State and all municipalities and public corporations for any
purpose for which the deposit of securities of bonds or other
38 obligations of the State may be authorized by law.

40 **Sec. 5. Sinking fund; refunding bonds.** In case any bonds or
notes at any time issued are made to run for a period of years,
42 as distinguished from serial maturity, the general assembly may
establish a sinking fund for such bonds or notes for the purpose
44 of redeeming the bonds or notes when they become due. If a
sinking fund is established, the amount to be paid annually into
46 this sinking fund may not be less than the debt service on the
bonds and notes to become due in that year. In addition to this
48 annual sinking fund payment, the general assembly may, from time
to time, add to any sinking fund any funds of the authority not
50 required for other purposes. Funds in any sinking fund may be

2 deposited in any national bank, savings bank or trust company
3 organized under the laws of any state or may be invested in whole
4 or in part in any bonds of the United States or any agency
5 thereof, of the State of Maine or of any political subdivision
6 thereof or in any investment in which a municipality is permitted
7 to invest as the general assembly may determine. Interest
8 received on any funds so invested must be added to the sinking
9 fund. When and if the amount accumulated in any sinking fund,
10 together with interest received or to be received thereon, is
11 sufficient to pay at maturity or, at the option of the general
12 assembly, to redeem the bonds or notes for the benefit of which
13 the sinking fund was established, all further payments to that
14 sinking fund must cease.

15 Whenever any bonds or notes issued by the authority become
16 due or are purchased or called for redemption by the authority on
17 favorable terms, the general assembly, if sufficient funds have
18 accumulated in the sinking fund provided therefor, may pay,
19 purchase or redeem those bonds or notes from the sinking fund and
20 cancel them. Bonds or notes so paid, purchased or redeemed and
21 canceled may not be reissued.

22 In case the amount in any sinking fund is not sufficient to
23 pay the total amount, when due, of the bonds and notes for which
24 the sinking fund was provided or in case it becomes desirable in
25 the opinion of the general assembly to call for the redemption of
26 any outstanding bonds or notes and to issue new bonds or notes in
27 their stead, the general assembly may refund so many of the
28 original bonds or notes as can not be paid or redeemed from the
29 sinking fund provided therefor, if any. New bonds or notes may
30 not mature more than 40 years from the original date of issue of
31 the original bonds or notes so refunded.

34 **Sec. 6. Referendum on bond issues.** When the general assembly
35 has authorized the issue of any bonds or notes, an attested copy
36 of the vote of the general assembly must be filed with the
37 municipal officers of each of the cities, towns and plantations
38 that are members of the authority and published in a newspaper or
39 newspapers, having a general circulation in the geographic
40 territory of the authority, not later than 10 days following the
41 day on which the vote was adopted by the general assembly,
42 together with a statement indicating that the vote will become
43 effective, unless before the expiration of 15 days from the date
44 on which a copy of the vote was first published the president or
45 the secretary of the general assembly has received a petition,
46 signed by at least 10% in the aggregate of the residents of the
47 cities, towns and plantations that are members of the authority
48 eligible to vote on the date the general assembly vote was
49 adopted, requesting that the question of whether the bonds or
50 notes be issued by the authority be

2 submitted to the voters of those member cities, towns and
plantations. The statement must also state the name and address
4 of the president and secretary of the general assembly. A vote of
the general assembly authorizing an issue of bonds under this Act
6 does not become effective before the expiration of 15 days from
the date upon which the vote and statement are published. If,
8 within that period, a petition, signed by at least 10% of the
residents of the cities, towns and plantations that are members
10 of the authority eligible to vote on the date that the issuance
of bonds by the general assembly was adopted as shown by the
12 authority's voting list, is filed with the president or the
secretary of the general assembly, asking that the question of
14 whether the bonds are to be issued be submitted to the voters,
the vote of the general assembly is suspended from becoming
16 effective and the general assembly shall immediately reconsider
the vote. If that vote is not rescinded by the general assembly,
18 the question of whether such bonds or notes may be issued must be
submitted by the general assembly to the voters of the cities,
20 towns and plantations that are members of the authority at a
special meeting of those qualified voters to be held at a place
22 within the geographic territory of the authority within 60 days
of the receipt of the petition. The special meeting must be
24 called and held as provided in section 11 of this Act, except
that the notice must set forth the vote of the general assembly
26 authorizing those bonds, together with the proposed form of the
ballot to be used at that special meeting. At the special
28 meeting, a vote on the question of whether the bonds may be
issued must be voted on by ballot, the form of which must be
substantially as follows:

30
32 "Do you favor issuing bonds or notes of the Washington
County Development Authority in the amount of \$,
34 bearing interest not to exceed per cent for the purpose
of procuring funds for the following purposes, viz.: (Insert
brief description of purpose for which bonds are to be sold)?

36
38 If in favor of the bond issue, so indicate on this ballot.

40
42 If opposed to the bond issue, so indicate on this ballot."

44
46 If a majority of the qualified voters voting at the meeting
approve the issue of the bonds, the vote of the general assembly
authorizing the bonds becomes effective; if not approved, the
48 vote of the general assembly authorizing the bonds is void. The
voters qualified to vote at the special meeting must be
determined by use of the authority voting list described in
section 7 of this Act.

50 **Sec. 7. Authority voting list.** The general assembly shall
appoint a resident of a member city, town or plantation to make

2 and keep a voting list of all residents of the member cities,
3 towns and plantations eligible to vote. This person is the
4 registration clerk. The registration clerk shall compile the
5 voting list from the voting lists of all of the member cities,
6 towns and plantations. At least 2 days before any meeting at
7 which the voters of the member cities, towns and plantations are
8 called upon to vote, the registration clerk shall bring this
9 voting list up to date by comparing the registration clerk's list
10 with those voting lists found in the cities, towns and
11 plantations that are members of the authority and by making such
12 additions and deletions as the registration clerk finds
13 necessary. Additions or deletions may not be made in the 2-day
14 period prior to that meeting.

15 **Sec. 8. Authority to issue temporary notes in anticipation of taxes.**

16 In any fiscal year, in anticipation of taxes assessed or to be
17 assessed for that year, the general assembly may, by a vote of a
18 majority of its members, authorize the borrowing of money by the
19 issuance and sale of temporary notes of the authority. If the
20 authority's budget has not been approved in that year, the amount
21 of borrowing may not exceed 50% of the approved budget of the
22 preceding year. Temporary notes of the authority may be issued
23 for a period of not more than one year and may be renewed from
24 time to time by the issue of other temporary notes, as long as
25 the period from the date of issue of the original note to date of
26 maturity or last renewal thereof is not more than one year. Notes
27 in anticipation of taxes that are not paid at the end of a fiscal
28 year may be included in the following year's budget as an
29 expenditure and an amount sufficient to pay the notes may be
30 assessed and collected as provided in section 10 of this Act.
31 Notwithstanding any provision in section 10 to the contrary, this
32 amount may not be reduced.

33 **Sec. 9. Agreements for financial assistance authorized.**

34 The authority is authorized, by vote of a majority of the general
35 assembly, to enter into an agreement with the State or Federal
36 Government or any agency thereof or with any corporation or board
37 authorized by the Federal Government or the State to loan money
38 to or to otherwise assist in the financing of projects that the
39 authority is authorized to finance by the issue of bonds as may
40 be necessary or desirable to accomplish those purposes. The
41 right to enter into an agreement is subject to the right of
42 referendum reserved to the voters in section 6 of this Act if the
43 authority incurs liability under any such agreement, and the
44 provisions of sections 6 and 11 apply so far as they apply to a
45 special meeting called and held for the purpose of a referendum.

46 **Sec. 10. Annual reports and budget; levy of taxes.**

47 The fiscal year of the authority is July 1st to June 30th. At the close of the
48 fiscal year and not later than July 31st, the
49
50

2 general assembly shall annually make a report of its doings,
3 showing the financial condition of the authority and other
4 matters pertaining to the authority, and shall show the
5 inhabitants of the cities, towns and plantations of the authority
6 how the members of the general assembly are fulfilling the duties
7 and obligations of their respective trusts. The report also must
8 include the amount of income earned during the fiscal year and
9 the sum required each year to meet the bonds or notes falling due
10 and what further sum is necessary to meet the interest on these
11 bonds or notes or other obligations of the authority and all
12 other expenses necessary for the operation of the authority,
13 including temporary loans. Copies of the report must be filed
14 with the municipal officers of each city, town or plantation that
15 is a member of the authority and may be distributed to the voters
16 of those cities, towns and plantations by the respective cities,
17 towns and plantations in the same manner as is provided for town
18 reports. The cost of printing these reports must be included in
19 the operating budget of the authority.

20 If the sum to be raised by taxation exceeds the total
21 specified in subsections 1 and 2, the general assembly shall hold
22 an authority budget meeting before the first day of September of
23 each year. At this meeting, the budget must be explained and the
24 voters of the member cities, towns and plantations must be given
25 an opportunity to be heard. If a budget is presented in any given
26 year, it is deemed approved unless disapproved by the voters of
27 the authority by a majority vote at the authority budget meeting.
28 The voters of the authority have the right to disapprove all or
29 any part of the budget presented by the general assembly except
30 that part that provides for the payment of interest on or the
31 principal of notes or bonds or other obligations of the authority.
32

33 To the extent that the general assembly may decide that the
34 authority can not operate within its projected revenues for the
35 current fiscal year, the general assembly shall determine what
36 sum of money should be raised by taxation for:

- 37 1. Payment of principal payable in that year on outstanding
38 bonds or notes or other obligations of the authority;
39
- 40 2. Payment of interest on the indebtedness incurred or
41 assumed by the authority; and
42
- 43 3. Other specified expenses of the authority.
44

45 The amount over the estimated income of the authority that
46 is required to meet the expenses in the approved budget and the
47 sums included in any budget for the payment of interest on or the
48 principal of notes or bonds or other obligations of the authority
49 are the obligation of the member cities, towns and plantations
50

2 and must be apportioned to the participating cities, towns and
3 plantations in the same ratio that each participating city's,
4 town's or plantation's latest state valuation is to the total
5 state valuation of all participating cities, towns and
6 plantations, if provided. However, the obligation may be
7 determined as a joint obligation by an authorizing vote of the
8 legislative body of any member city, town or plantation. The
9 general assembly shall issue its warrants in substantially the
10 same form as the warrants of the Treasurer of State for taxes to
11 the assessors of each participating city, town and plantation.
12 The warrants must require the assessors to assess upon the
13 taxable polls and estates in each city, town or plantation the
14 amount as approved at the authority budget meeting and to commit
15 the assessment to the constable or collector of that city, town
16 or plantation who is vested by law to collect state, county and
17 municipal taxes. In the year in which the tax is so levied, the
18 treasurer of each city, town or plantation shall pay the amount
19 of the tax in 2 equal installments to the treasurer of the
20 authority. The first such installment must be paid on or before
21 June 15th, and the 2nd such installment on or before December
22 15th. If the treasurer of any participating city, town or
23 plantation fails to pay any installment or part of an installment
24 by the date set for the payment in the year in which the tax is
25 levied, the treasurer of the authority shall issue a warrant for
26 the amount of the tax or the unpaid balance to the county
27 sheriff. The warrant must require the county sheriff to levy by
28 distress and sale on the real and personal property of any
29 resident of the member city, town or plantation where the default
30 takes place, and the sheriff or any of the sheriff's deputies
31 shall execute the warrant. The same authority as is vested in
32 county officials for the collection of county taxes under the
33 Maine Revised Statutes is vested in the general assembly of the
34 authority for the collection of taxes within participating
35 cities, towns and plantations.

36 **Sec. 11. Authority budget meeting.** The general assembly shall
37 notify members of budget meetings in the following manner.

38 1. Each authority meeting must be called by a warrant. The
39 warrant must be prepared by the secretary and signed by the
40 president of the general assembly.

41 2. The procedure and form of the warrant calling for the
42 authority meeting is as follows.

43 A. It must specify the time and place of the meeting.

44 B. It must set forth the proposed authority budget in a
45 manner to be decided by the general assembly. No other
46 business may be acted upon.
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2 C. It must be directed to any resident of the member
4 cities, towns and plantations by name, ordering that
6 resident to notify the voters within that resident's city,
town or plantation to assemble at the time and place
appointed.

8 D. An attested copy of the warrant must be posted by the
10 persons described in paragraph C in some conspicuous public
12 place in their city, town or plantation at least 7 days
before the meeting.

14 E. The secretary shall collect warrants returned pursuant
16 to paragraph D and record the manner of notice in each city,
town and plantation and the time when it was given.

18 3. The following provisions apply to the budget meeting.

20 A. Each person whose name appears on the voting list in a
22 member city, town or plantation may attend and vote at an
authority budget meeting.

24 B. The president of the general assembly shall open the
26 meeting by calling for the election of a moderator,
receiving votes for a moderator and swearing in the
moderator.

28 C. As soon as the moderator has been elected and sworn, the
30 moderator shall preside at the meeting and has all the
powers granted to the moderator of a town or plantation
meeting under the Maine Revised Statutes.

32 D. The secretary of the general assembly shall record all
34 the votes of the authority meeting.

36 E. A majority vote of the legal voters present and voting
38 is determinative of any vote or motion placed before the
authority meeting.

40 **Sec. 12. Dissolution.** The authority may be dissolved only if
42 all member cities, towns and plantations vote to dissolve it at
legally constituted meetings in those cities, towns or
44 plantations. If the authority has any outstanding indebtedness,
it may not be dissolved.

46 In the event of dissolution of the authority, all property,
48 real, personal or mixed, must be marshaled and converted into
cash in a manner to be determined by a majority vote of the
general assembly, and distribution must then be made among the

2 respective cities, towns and plantations in proportion to their
state valuations as set forth in this Act.

4 **Sec. 13. Other cities, towns and plantations may join; procedure for**
withdrawing from authority. Cities, towns and plantations that are
6 located within the geographic territory of the authority, as
described in section 1 of this Act, and that do not vote to
8 become members of the authority by the date specified in section
14 of this Act may vote to become members of the authority at a
10 later date, if the voters of the cities, towns and plantations
that are members of the authority vote at a meeting of the
12 authority to authorize the addition of the requesting city, town
or plantation as a member of the authority. A city, town or
14 plantation joining the authority pursuant to this section is
legally obligated for its pro rata share of the operational part
16 of all future authority budgets and any indebtedness of the
authority incurred pursuant to sections 4, 8 and 10 of this Act
18 after the city, town or plantation becomes a member of the
authority. A city, town or plantation that is already a member of
20 the authority may vote to withdraw its membership; however, it
continues to be legally obligated on any outstanding indebtedness
22 of the authority until such time as all of the indebtedness is
paid in full. The withdrawal only becomes effective on the date
24 that marks the end of a fiscal year of the authority that is
preceded by a full fiscal year in which the income was at least
26 sufficient to pay the indebtedness and expenses of the authority
for that fiscal year.

28 **Sec. 14. Referendum; effective date.** This Act takes effect when
30 approved only for the purpose of permitting its submission to the
legal voters of the cities, towns and plantations described in
32 section 1 of this Act at regular or special town and plantation
meetings and city elections called and held for that purpose
34 before December 31, 2001. Such city elections and town and
plantation meetings must be called, advertised and conducted
36 according to the law relating to municipal elections and
meetings. The registrars of voters are not required to prepare,
38 nor the clerks to post, new lists of voters. For the purpose of
registration of voters, the registrars of voters must be in
40 session on the secular day next preceding these regular or
special meetings. The votes taken at town and plantation meetings
42 must be by written ballot.

44 The municipal clerks shall reduce the subject matter of this
Act to the following question:

46 "Do you favor approving the Act creating the Washington
48 County Development Authority passed by the 120th
Legislature, and (insert name of city, town or plantation)
50 becoming a participating member of that authority?"

2 The voters must indicate by a cross or check mark placed
against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same.

4
6 This Act takes effect immediately upon acceptance by the
cities, towns and plantations so voting approval and having a
combined state valuation of at least \$3,000,000,000; but only if
8 the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of
this Act at each of the city, town or plantation meetings
10 approving this Act equals or exceeds 10% of the total votes for
all candidates for Governor cast in that city, town or plantation
12 at the next preceding gubernatorial election. Failure of approval
by the necessary percentage of voters at any such meetings does
14 not prevent a subsequent meeting or meetings to be held for those
purposes on or before December 31, 2001. The result of the vote
16 must be declared by the municipal officers of the cities, towns
or plantations, and due certification thereof must be filed by
18 the city, town or plantation clerks with the Secretary of State.

20
SUMMARY

22
24 This bill creates the Washington County Development
Authority for the purposes of enhancing economic development
within the county, strengthening the financial condition of local
26 governments within the county while combining resources and
sharing costs for meeting regional economic development needs and
28 challenges, and promoting and developing infrastructure and
programs for employment and economic development opportunities
30 and other conditions to enhance regional development. This bill
would take effect when approved only for the purpose of
32 permitting its submission to the legal voters of the cities,
towns and plantations of Washington County at regular or special
34 town and plantation meetings and city elections called and held
for that purpose before December 31, 2001.