

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R018

L.D. 1909

DATE: Feb 22, 2002

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reported by:

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 707, L.D. 1909, Bill, "An Act to Permit the Town of Atkinson to Deorganize"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency preamble.

Further amend the bill in section 5 in the 3rd line (page 2, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2002" and inserting in its place the following: '2003'

Further amend the bill in section 6 by striking out all of the first paragraph (page 2, lines 7 to 15 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 6. Referendum; certificate to Secretary of State. This Act takes effect 90 days after its approval only for the purpose of permitting its submission by the municipal officers to the legal voters of the Town of Atkinson by ballot at the next general election to be held in November. This election must be called, advertised and conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, sections 2528 and 2532. The town clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which the clerk shall reduce the subject matter of this Act to the following question:'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 6 the following:

'Sec. 7. Effective date. Sections 1 to 5 of this Act take effect on July 1, 2003 if deorganization is approved by the voters of the Town of Atkinson pursuant to section 6 of this Act.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency clause.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

12/15

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 707, L.D. 1909

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Education in fiscal year 2002-03. However, allowing the Town of Atkinson to deorganize would impact the operating budget of the Division of State Schools - Education in the Unorganized Territory program and would result in an increase in the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund in fiscal year 2004-05. The amount can not be determined at this time.

The minor additional costs associated with the filing of certain election results can be absorbed by the Secretary of State utilizing existing budgeted resources.

Assuming an effective date of July 1, 2003, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services will require a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$10,500 for contractual services to conduct a general valuation of the Town of Atkinson. These costs will be reimbursed from the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund, resulting in additional General Fund revenue equal to the expenditures.

If the Town of Atkinson is deorganized, the Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement program will realize savings beginning in fiscal year 2003-04 estimated to be \$13,000.'

SUMMARY

This amendment makes a series of technical changes to the original bill. The amendment removes the emergency preamble and the emergency clause. It also changes the date of assessment of taxes to April 1, 2003. It also requires that the official town vote on deorganization occur during the next general election in November. Finally, the amendment changes the effective date of the proposed deorganization if it is approved by voters of the town to July 1, 2003.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.