

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 726, L.D. 1967, Bill, "An Act to Assist Municipalities of Sagadahoc County with the Change in the County Budget Year"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "Sec. 3." by inserting at the end a new paragraph to read:

'Prior to February 15, 2002, the municipal officers of each municipality in Sagadahoc County shall notify the county clerk in writing of the manner in which the municipality intends to pay its portion of the transitional county budget for the period January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002. At the time of notification, the municipal officers shall indicate whether the municipality intends to pay its full share of the January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002 transitional budget during 2002 in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 706 or whether it intends to pay its share of the transitional budget in equal payments over 2, 3, 4 or 5 years ending not later than the year 2006. In accordance with the payment schedule indicated in its notification, any municipality not paying its full portion of the January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002 transitional budget in 2002 shall make payments for the transitional budget to the county at the time the municipality makes its payment to the county for the current year. Each municipality is responsible to the county for payment of the municipality's share of the January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002 transitional budget and any interest incurred by the county for borrowing on behalf of the municipality in anticipation of taxes as provided in this section.'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**FISCAL NOTE**

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The requirement that municipal officers of Sagadahoc County must notify the county clerk in writing of the manner in which the municipality will pay its portion of the transitional county budget represents a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. The additional local costs are expected to be minor but can not be determined at this time. Unless General Fund appropriations are provided to fund at least 90% of the additional costs or a Mandate Preamble is amended to the bill and 2/3 of the members of each House vote to exempt this mandate from the funding requirement, the municipal officers of the municipalities in Sagadahoc County may not be required to implement these changes.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment clarifies the process for payment by municipalities in Sagadahoc County of their share of the 6-month county budget adopted for the transition to a July to June fiscal year in the county. It authorizes municipalities to spread payment to the county of their portion of the transitional budget over a period from one to 5 years and directs municipalities to make their payment of their annual share of the transitional budget at the same time they pay their share of the current year's county budget. A municipality not paying its full share of the transitional budget in 2002 is required to pay the interest incurred by the county for borrowing in anticipation of taxes on behalf of the municipality.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.