

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 418

H.P. 326

House of Representatives, February 4, 2003

**An Act To Limit the Undesignated Surplus of Counties to 15% of
the Annual Operating Budget**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BARSTOW of Gorham, BLISS of South Portland, BUNKER
of Kossuth Township, CLOUGH of Scarborough, DUDLEY of Portland, GLYNN of South
Portland, MOORE of Standish, Senator: GILMAN of Cumberland.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §924, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 349,
§6, is further amended to read:

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8 **2. Reduce tax levy.** After restoring the contingent account
under subsection 1, the county commissioners shall use any
unencumbered surplus funds to reduce the tax levy in the
following fiscal year as provided in this subsection. The county
10 commissioners shall use any remaining unencumbered surplus funds
in excess of 15% ~~for the fiscal year beginning in 2002, 18% for~~
12 ~~the fiscal year beginning in 2003 and 20% for the fiscal year~~
~~beginning in 2004 and each fiscal year thereafter~~ of the amount
14 to be raised by taxation in the following fiscal year to reduce
the tax levy in that year. The county commissioners may not
16 commit taxes to be raised in any fiscal year until the county
commissioners have complied with this subsection.

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SUMMARY

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This bill limits the amount of surplus funds a county may
retain for purposes other than reducing the amount of tax levy in
24 a fiscal year to 15% of the annual operating budget.