



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 474

H.P. 349

House of Representatives, February 1, 2005

An Act To Clarify the Authority of a County To Fund Its County Communications Center through the County Tax or Fee-for-service Agreements

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

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative BLANCHARD of Old Town. Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot and Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, CLARK of Millinocket, CROSBY of Topsham, PINKHAM of Lexington Township, TARDY of Newport.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §453, first, 3rd and 4th ¶¶, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106; and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, are further amended to read:

8 Each county may establish a communications center, separate from any communications function of the sheriff's department and
10 capable of serving the communication needs of the county and the municipalities which that may wish to use the center. If the
12 center is available for use by any municipality in the county that chooses to use it, the center may be funded through the
14 county tax for which municipalities are assessed pursuant to section 706, even if one or more municipalities in the county
16 elect not to use the center.

18 The county communications center shall provide communication services for the sheriff's department, county civil emergency 20 services, county or municipal rescue or ambulance services, county or municipal fire departments or municipal police 22 departments, including specific communications for municipal law enforcement functions and the dispatching of municipal units.

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The county commissioners, after consulting with the director or chief dispatcher, may <u>also</u> enter into an agreement with a municipality, within or outside the county, under section 107 to provide specific--communications-for-municipal--law-enforcement functions,--including--dispatching--ef--municipal--units, <u>that</u> <u>municipality with any of the communications services offered by the county's communications center</u> in return for payment for these services.

34 Sec. 2. Application. The provisions of this Act apply to county budgets for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2005.

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SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that a county communications center may be funded through the county tax if the center is available for use by any municipality in the county that chooses to use it, even if one or more municipalities in the county elect not to use the center. It also allows the county commissioners to enter into an agreement with a municipality, whether or not located in the county, to provide that municipality with any of the communications services offered by the county's communications center in return for payment for these services.