

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1127

S.P. 389

In Senate, March 1, 2005

**Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Assist Towns Interested in
Multitown Cooperation and Governance**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ANDREWS of York.
Cosponsored by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham and
Senators: NASS of York, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot, Representative: MOULTON of York.

Sec. 1. Pilot project for multitown cooperation and governance.

2 **Resolved:** That the Executive Department, State Planning Office
4 shall establish a pilot project to assist municipalities
6 interested in working together by developing municipal service
8 districts as described in this resolve.

1. The State Planning Office shall develop a competitive
8 process to select 2 groups of municipalities to participate in
10 the pilot project as municipal service districts.

2. The State Planning Office shall convene an advisory
12 board of state government and education officials and interested
14 government and school officials from counties, municipalities and
16 school administrative units. The advisory board shall establish
18 guidelines for the pilot project that, at a minimum:

A. Establish a minimum grouping in each municipal service
18 district of 3 municipalities;

B. Establish the structure of the school administrative
20 unit that would serve each municipal service district;

C. Specify the authority that each municipal service
22 district will have, including, but not limited to:

(1) Setting budgets and tax rates for the municipal
26 service district;

(2) Establishing a joint system of land use planning
28 and regulation consistent with the State's growth
30 management program; and

(3) Administrating education from kindergarten to
32 grade 12;

D. Establish the technical and financial assistance that
36 will be available to assist municipalities in developing a
38 proposal for participation in the pilot project as a
40 municipal service district including the incentives
42 available to assist the participating municipalities in
44 implementing the municipal service district; and

E. Establish the technical and financial assistance that
44 will be available to assist those municipalities that are
46 chosen to participate in the pilot project, including the
48 study and design of the municipal service district and the
timelines and legal commitments required of the
participating municipalities.

2 3. The following is the timeline for the development of
proposals, selection of participants and establishment of the
municipal service districts.

4
6 A. By December 31, 2005, the State Planning Office shall
develop and issue the request for proposals.

8 B. By December 31, 2006, all proposals must be submitted by
municipalities wishing to participate in the pilot project.

10
12 C. By June 30, 2007, the State Planning Office shall select
2 groups to participate in the pilot project.

14 D. By December 31, 2008, the design of the proposed
municipal service districts must be completed and voted on
16 by the legislative bodies of each participating municipality.

18 4. In addition to any funds appropriated pursuant to this
resolve, funding for grants and other financial assistance for
20 the development of proposals and design of municipal service
districts must be allocated from the Fund for the Efficient
22 Delivery of Local and Regional Services established in the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5681, subsection 3; and be
24 it further

26 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the
following appropriations and allocations are made.

28 **STATE PLANNING OFFICE**

30 **Municipal Service Districts Pilot Project**

32 Initiative: Provides funds for grants and direct financial
34 assistance to municipalities developing proposals and selected to
participate in a municipal service districts pilot project.

36	GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
38	All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
40	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

42 **SUMMARY**

44
46 This resolve requires the Executive Department, State
Planning Office, working with state and local government and
education officials, to develop a municipal service district
48 pilot project. Following a competitive process to determine the
participating municipalities, the State Planning Office would
50 continue to provide technical assistance, as well as grants,

incentives and direct financial assistance to the municipalities
2 participating in the pilot project. A timeline is provided for
the development and submission of proposals and the design and
4 implementation of the municipal service districts. Funding is
provided through the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and
6 Regional Services and a separate appropriation.