

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 763

H.P. 516

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, MAKER of Calais, Senator:
LANGLEY of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1461-B, sub-§3, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 485, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 D. The governing body of an alternative organizational structure, by majority vote,
5 may authorize a change in the alternative organizational structure budget approval
6 procedures in paragraph C to require a budget approval by the governing body of the
7 alternative organizational structure instead of a meeting of the voters of all of the
8 member entities of the alternative organizational structure. The change in procedure
9 must be authorized by a majority of the total number of voters of all of the member
10 entities in the alternative organizational structure ~~at the next statewide election~~ at
11 special meeting of the voters authorized by a majority vote of the governing body of
12 the alternative organizational structure. The article to be voted ~~upon~~ on at the special
13 meeting must be in substantially the following form:

14 "Article: Do you favor changing the (name of alternative organizational
15 structure) budget approval procedure from a meeting of the voters to a vote by
16 the governing body of the alternative organizational structure?

17 Yes No"

18 If approved by the voters, the budget approval procedure changes to a majority vote
19 of the governing body of the alternative organizational structure at a budget meeting.
20 This procedure must remain in effect for at least 3 budget years before the alternative
21 organizational structure may return to the requirement that a budget be approved at a
22 meeting of the voters of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational
23 structure.

24 An article to consider reinstatement of the budget approval procedure in which the
25 budget is approved at a meeting of the voters of all of the member entities may be
26 placed on a warrant for referendum vote by either a majority vote of the governing
27 body of the alternative organizational structure or by a written petition to the
28 governing body of the alternative organizational structure signed by a number of
29 voters of member entities of the alternative organizational structure equal to at least
30 10% of the voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election in the member entities
31 of the alternative organizational structure. The governing body of the alternative
32 organizational structure shall place the article on the next scheduled warrant or an
33 earlier one if determined appropriate by the governing body of the alternative
34 organizational structure. The article to be voted upon must be in substantially the
35 following form:

36 "Article: Do you favor changing the (name of alternative organizational
37 structure) budget approval procedure from a vote by the governing body of the
38 alternative organizational structure to a meeting of the voters?

39 Yes No"

40 If approved by a majority of the total number of voters of all of the member entities
41 in the alternative organizational structure, the budget approval procedure changes to a
42 meeting of the voters of all of the member entities of the alternative organizational

1 structure beginning in the next budget year or the following budget year if the
2 approval occurs less than 90 days before the start of the next budget year. Once
3 approved by the voters, this procedure may not be changed for at least 3 budget years.

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This bill changes the school budget approval process for alternative organizational
6 structures. Current law requires that a change in who approves a budget must be
7 approved at the next statewide election. The bill requires that such a determination of
8 who approves a budget must be approved at a special meeting authorized by a majority of
9 the governing body of the alternative organizational structure rather than at the next
10 statewide election.