

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 621

H.P. 457

House of Representatives, March 1, 2021

An Act To Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LANDRY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Representative: SKOLFIELD of Weld, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §66-B, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 270, Pt. C, §2, is
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §66-B, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

5 **4-A. Creation of Franklin County Commissioner Districts.** Franklin County is
6 divided into the following districts.

7 A. Until the first election held after the 2021 redistricting conducted in accordance
8 with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 25, Franklin County is divided into
9 3 districts.

10 (1) Commissioner District Number 1, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
11 minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Carthage, Jay, South Franklin,
12 Temple and Wilton. The term of office of the commissioner from this district
13 expires in 2022 and then in 2024.

14 (2) Commissioner District Number 2, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
15 minor civil divisions of Chesterville, Farmington and New Sharon. The term of
16 office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and then in 2024.

17 (3) Commissioner District Number 3, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
18 minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Avon, Carrabassett Valley,
19 Coplin, Dallas, East Central Franklin, Eustis, Industry, Kingfield, New Vineyard,
20 North Franklin, Phillips, Rangeley, Rangeley Plantation, Sandy River, Strong,
21 Weld, West Central Franklin and Wyman Township. The term of office of the
22 commissioner from this district expires in 2024.

23 B. For purposes of the reapportionment and redistricting conducted in accordance with
24 the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 25, Franklin County is divided into 5
25 districts. The redistricting must reflect 5 commissioner districts for Franklin County
26 and in addition must align as closely as practicable with the following.

27 (1) Commissioner District Number 1, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
28 minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Temple and Wilton. The term
29 of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2026 and every 4 years
30 thereafter.

31 (2) Commissioner District Number 2, in the County of Franklin, consists of
32 Farmington. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in
33 2026 and every 4 years thereafter.

34 (3) Commissioner District Number 3, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
35 minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Avon, Carthage, Coplin, Eustis,
36 North Franklin, Phillips, Rangeley, Rangeley Plantation, Sandy River, South
37 Franklin, Strong, Weld and West Central Franklin. The term of office of the
38 commissioner from this district expires in 2026 and every 4 years thereafter.

39 (4) Commissioner District Number 4, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
40 minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Carrabassett Valley, Dallas,
41 East Central Franklin, Industry, Kingfield, New Sharon, New Vineyard and

1 Wyman Township. The term of office of the commissioner from this district
2 expires in 2028 and every 4 years thereafter.

3 (5) Commissioner District Number 5, in the County of Franklin, consists of the
4 minor civil divisions of Chesterville and Jay. The term of office of the
5 commissioner from this district expires in 2028 and every 4 years thereafter.

6 **Sec. 3. Referendum; effective date.** This Act takes effect 90 days after its
7 approval only for the purpose of its submission by the county commissioners of Franklin
8 to the legal voters of the county. The county commissioners of Franklin shall submit this
9 Act to the legal voters of the county by ballot at the general election to be held in November
10 2022. The method of voting and the conduct of the referendum are governed by the Maine
11 Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, and the county commissioners or county administrators shall
12 perform the duties of the Secretary of State prescribed by Title 21-A in the same manner
13 as the county commissioners are required to do in the case of a county bond referendum
14 election held pursuant to Title 30-A, section 938. The subject matter of this Act must be
15 reduced to the following question:

16 "Do you favor increasing the number of Franklin County commissioner
17 districts from 3 to 5 and staggering the terms of the 5 county
18 commissioners following redistricting conducted pursuant to the
19 Constitution of Maine in 2021?"

20 The voters shall indicate their opinion on this question by a cross or check mark placed
21 against the word "Yes" or "No." Before becoming effective, this Act must be approved by
22 a majority of the legal voters casting ballots at the general election, and the total number of
23 votes cast for and against the acceptance of this Act at the election must equal or exceed
24 50% of the total number of votes cast in the county for Governor at the last gubernatorial
25 election.

26 The result of a referendum must be declared by the county commissioners or county
27 administrators and due certificate filed with the Secretary of State within 10 days after the
28 date of the election.

29 This Act takes effect for all purposes upon approval of the referendum held in
30 accordance with this section.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires that, upon approval by the voters of Franklin County at referendum
33 held in November 2022, after the redistricting of the county commissioner districts is done
34 in 2021 pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Franklin County must be divided into 5
35 county commissioner districts. The bill requires that the reapportionment for each of the
36 new 5 districts reflects, as closely as practicable, the specified geographical composition of
37 the district.