

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 2005

H.P. 1491

House of Representatives, March 2, 2022

An Act Regarding the Reapportionment of the Knox County Budget Committee Districts

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 28, 2022. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas**, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757 requires the Knox
4 County Commissioners to prepare a redistricting plan for Knox County budget committee
5 seats by June 1, 2021 and submit that plan to the Secretary of State; and

6 **Whereas**, upon receipt of the redistricting plan, the Secretary of State is required to
7 submit the plan to the Legislature for "review and enactment"; and

8 **Whereas**, although the Knox County Commissioners determined that no changes in
9 the budget committee districts were necessary, this legislation is needed to provide clarity
10 in time for the elections of budget committee members this year; and

11 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
14 therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §757, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 481, §1, is further
17 amended to read:

18 **1. Redistricting process.** The county commissioners shall review the districts
19 established in subsection 2 and, if changes are necessary, prepare a redistricting plan for
20 county budget committee seats by June 1, ~~2021~~ 2031 and every 10 years thereafter. The
21 county commissioners shall submit ~~the~~ any redistricting plan to the Secretary of State
22 within 5 days of adoption. ~~The~~ If redistricting is required, the Secretary of State shall
23 immediately transmit the redistricting plan to the Legislature for review and enactment.

24 **Sec. 2. Knox County budget committee districts.** Notwithstanding that
25 provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 1 that requires
26 a redistricting plan to be prepared in 2021 by the Knox County Commissioners and
27 reviewed and enacted by the Legislature, the Knox County budget committee districts
28 specified in Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the same until a redistricting plan
29 is submitted to the Secretary of State by the Knox County Commissioners in 2031 or later
30 and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature.

31 **Sec. 3. Application.** This Act is not intended to affect the terms of the Knox County
32 budget committee members in office on the effective date of this Act.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
34 takes effect when approved.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 Under current law, beginning in June 2021, the Knox County Commissioners are
37 required to prepare a redistricting plan for the Knox County budget committee districts and
38 submit that plan to the Secretary of State, who is required to submit it to the Legislature for
39 review and enactment. In 2021, the Knox County Commissioners determined that the
40 budget committee districts in place did not need to be adjusted, so no new plan for
41 redistricting was capable of being enacted by the Legislature, as required by the law.

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To overcome this issue and avoid it in the future, this bill:

1. Allows the Knox County Commissioners, beginning in June 2031, to determine whether changes to the budget committee districts are needed and, only if changes are necessary, submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State, who must submit the plan to the Legislature for review and enactment; and

2. Declares that, for purposes of the 2021 redistricting of the Knox County budget committee districts, the districts established currently in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the districts until the Knox County Commissioners submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature. This bill also explicitly states that it is not intended to affect the terms of the budget committee members in office on the effective date of the legislation.