

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 153

H.P. 94

House of Representatives, January 12, 2023

**An Act to Allow Electronic Distribution of Certain Documents to  
Municipalities and Electronic Acknowledgment of Receipt of  
Certain Documents as Acceptable Communications**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DHALAC of South Portland,  
MATLACK of St. George, PLUECKER of Warren, ROBERTS of South Berwick, WARREN  
of Scarborough, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §701, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §2, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Public hearing.** The county commissioners shall hold a public hearing in the county  
5 on these estimates before the end of the county's fiscal year. They shall publish a notice of  
6 the hearing at least 10 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within  
7 the county. Written notice and a copy of the estimates must be sent by electronic or regular  
8 mail or delivered in person to the clerk of each municipality in the county at least 10 days  
9 before the hearing, and the clerk shall provide confirmation of receipt by electronic or  
10 regular mail. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the receipt of the  
11 estimates.

12 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §764**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §8, is further amended  
13 to read:

14 **§764. Public hearing**

15 The Hancock County commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the budget estimate  
16 at least 90 days before the end of the county's fiscal year and an informational meeting on  
17 the advisory committee's budget estimates at least 30 days before the end of the county's  
18 fiscal year. Pursuant to the requirements of section 701, subsection 3, written notice and a  
19 copy of the estimates must be sent by electronic or regular mail or delivered in person to  
20 each member of the county legislative delegation at least 10 days before the informational  
21 meeting on the annual budget.

22 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §855, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and  
23 Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further  
24 amended to read:

25 **3. Public hearing.** The budget committee shall hold a public hearing in the county on  
26 the proposed budget before the end of the county's fiscal year and before the final adoption  
27 of the budget. Notice of the hearing shall must be given at least 10 days before the hearing  
28 in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the  
29 proposed budget shall must be sent by ~~registered~~ electronic or ~~certified~~ regular mail, with  
30 ~~return receipt requested~~ confirmation of receipt sent by electronic or regular mail, or be  
31 delivered in person, with proof received of the delivery, to the clerk of each municipality  
32 in the county. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the proposed  
33 budget.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 Current law requires that annual estimates of proposed county taxes and notices of  
36 public hearings on proposed county taxes must be sent to the clerk of each municipality in  
37 the county by mail or delivered in person and that proposed county budgets and notices of  
38 public hearings on proposed county budgets must be sent to the clerk of each municipality  
39 in the county by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person.  
40 This bill allows those proposed county taxes and budgets and public hearing notices to be  
41 sent by electronic or regular mail, with confirmation of receipt by electronic or regular  
42 mail, or delivered in person.