

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 561**

H. P. 1427

House of Representatives, February 9, 1939.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Thompson of Castle Hill.

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S T A T E   O F   M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Authorizing Towns to Employ a Town Manager or to Form  
Unions for the Purpose.**

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

**Sec. 1. Town manager form of government.** Any town, at the annual town meeting, or at a special town meeting, provided an appropriate article has been inserted in the warrant for such meeting, may vote to employ a town manager, or to form a union with one or more other towns in the employment of a town manager, and may delegate to the selectmen the right to fix the compensation of such town manager. In every case where a union is formed for the purpose of employing a town manager the total aggregate compensation for said town manager shall be divided among the several town comprising said union in proportion to the last valuation of said towns as determined by the state tax assessor ; and each of said towns is authorized to raise by taxation the necessary money therefor.

**Sec. 2. Unions may be organized.** The manager elected by any such town or union of towns shall be manager of the municipal and prudential affairs of said town or of each of the several towns comprising such union, and as such manager shall perform, for each of said towns, the duties hereinafter specified. Any town entering into such a union may withdraw

therefrom by vote at any annual town meeting. Said withdrawal shall not become effective until 60 days after written notice of such intention to withdraw shall have been given to the selectmen of each of the other towns comprising such union.

**Sec. 3. Powers and duties of town manager.** Town managers shall be chosen on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications by the selectmen at a town voting to employ a town manager, or by a joint board composed of the selectmen of the several towns comprising a union for the purposes of this act in which joint board the selectmen of each town shall cast collectively a single vote. A town manager shall be the administrative head of the government of the town, or of each of the several towns comprising a town union, and shall be responsible to the selectmen of each town for the administration of all departments of each said town, over which the selectmen of towns have control, and his powers and duties, where not otherwise provided, shall be generally as follows :

- a. To see that the laws and ordinances are enforced.
- b. To act as purchasing agent for all town departments except school departments, and to submit to bids any purchases involving more than \$100 if the selectmen or the joint board shall so order.
- c. To attend the meetings of the selectmen, except when his removal is being considered, and recommend for adoption such measures as he may deem expedient.
- d. To keep the selectmen and the citizens of said town or towns fully advised as to the financial conditions of said town or towns.
- e. To perform in each town or towns such other duties as may be prescribed for him by the selectmen.

**Sec. 4. Removal.** Any town manager elected under the provisions of this act may be removed from his said office for cause by the selectmen of any town by which he is employed or by the joint board aforesaid in case his employment is by a town union.