

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Part II County and Local

BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

In 1984 a bond issue for \$1.4 million was authorized by the Legislature and the county voters for renovation and additions to the Washington County jail. Subsequently, the lowest bid received was for \$2.1 million. Therefore in 1986 the Legislature authorized an additional \$700,000 in funding.

Construction was begun in 1986 and some \$338,000 in additional expenses were and will be incurred. Therefore, this bill authorizes borrowing the necessary funds by adding to the current bond issue. This bill requests \$350,000 for this purpose. This will raise the total authorized funding for the jail construction to \$2,450,000. There is currently an agreement with the Farmers Home Administration for 20 year bonds at a 5% rate of interest. This is the county's only bonded indebtedness and this indebtedness with interest will total \$3,932,260.

This bill also removes the requirement for local referendum.

LD RESOLVE, REQUIRING A LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF INDEF. PP
1692 COUNTY BUDGET PROCEDURES

Sponsor: CASHMAN, Nadeau, G. G., Ingraham
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 618

SUMMARY: The original resolve requires that the Committee on State and Local Government study the county budget procedures and make a recommendation for 1 uniform process. As this was emergency legislation, the study can begin when passed and must be reported by January 1, 1988.

This new draft would eliminate a uniform budget process for all counties as an objective of the study of county budget procedures. The new draft changes the reporting date for the study to Nov. 1, 1987 and adds a fiscal note for \$9200 to fund the study.

LD AN ACT TO GIVE THE AROOSTOOK COUNTY BUDGET PL 1987
1721 COMMITTEE FINAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY OVER THE c. 455
COUNTY BUDGET

Sponsor: MCHENRY, Smith, Ingraham, Collins
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 88
Amendments Adopted:
H-395 CARROLL

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill was to remove the sunset provision in the Aroostook County Budget Committee legislation.

Over the last 2 years 6 counties have established new procedures for budget approval. The common denominator is the statutory recognition of a municipal budget committee. Two counties have given this committee a review and recommendation function and 4, including Aroostook, have given it a revise and adopt authority.

The second major issue that these counties have dealt with is the location of the authority for final approval of the budget. Four counties, including Aroostook, have left this with the Legislature. One has vested it in the county commissioners and one in the budget committee. Of the four leaving the authority with the Legislature two, including Aroostook, do not allow legislative revision. One does and one does not specify and, therefore, falls under the regular procedure, which allows legislative revision.

There is a great deal of variation in the membership requirements of the budget committees as summarized below.

	<u>Membership Qualification</u>	<u>How Selected</u>
Kennebec	Not specified	Appointed by Commissioners
Waldo	Municipal Officers	Vote of Municipal Officers
Aroostook	Any Resident	Vote of Municipal Officers
Cumberland	Municipal Officers	Vote of Municipal Officers
Piscataquis	1-3 Municipal Officials 1-3 General Public 1-3 Undesignated	Appointed by Commissioners
Androscoggin	2-3 Non-Municipal Officials 1-3 undesignated	Vote of Municipal Officers

Aroostook and Kennebec have 9/30/88 sunset dates. The others have no sunset dates.

The new draft would have removed the legislative delegation and the Legislature from the Aroostook County budget process, thereby leaving the final approval with the budget committee. It also eliminated the sunset provision. It increased the number of budget committee members from the unorganized territories from 1 to 3 but limits their role to matters dealing with the unorganized territory budget. It also required that at least one budget committee member from each district be an elected municipal officer. Previously any resident was eligible for each elected committee position.

The House amendment strikes out the new draft. It changes the role of the budget committee to one of advising. It allows the Legislature to amend the budget rather than returning it to the commissioners.