

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

December 2021

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of an unorganized territory located in the county to the budget committee. This law requires the appointment of members to the Budget Committee be done in a manner established by the county commissioners.

LD 377 An Act To Allow Public Members of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission To Receive Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 9 allows the expenses of members of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission to be reimbursed.

Public Law 2021, chapter 9 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 17, 2021.

LD 472 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 104: Certain Payments Not Immediate, a Major Substantive Rule of the Treasurer of State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 11 authorizes for final adoption of Chapter 104: Certain Payments Not Immediate, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Treasurer of State.

Resolve 2021, chapter 11 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 5, 2021.

LD 564 Resolve, Directing the State Librarian and the State Archivist To Study Which State Agency Reports and Publications Do Not Need To Be Printed

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 19 directs the State Librarian and the State Archivist to study the potential cost savings from eliminating the requirement that state agencies or departments provide printed copies of certain reports and other publications. The State Librarian and the State Archivist shall provide the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government with a report and suggested legislation by December 1, 2021. The committee is authorized to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 596 An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 145 repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 3028 and enacts a new section. Section 3028 created a presumption of abandonment of a town way not kept

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passable for the use of motor vehicles at the expense of the municipality or county for a period of 30 or more consecutive years. The new section, section 3028-A, replaces the presumption with a process for a municipality to follow should it choose to declare a town way abandoned.

The process includes notice to abutting property owners, property owners for whom the town way is the only means of access and adjacent municipalities and counties. It provides for a public hearing process and an appeals process. The law limits a public easement retained in a town way discontinued by abandonment to rights of access by foot or motor vehicle, which are the limits of public easements laid out by a municipality through its eminent domain powers in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 3022.

LD 621 An Act To Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 8 requires the legislative apportionment commission to develop two apportionment plans for Franklin County, one plan dividing Franklin County into three commissioner districts and one plan dividing the county into five commissioner districts. In the election held in November 2021, the Franklin County Commissioners are required to submit a referendum question to the voters asking whether they favor dividing Franklin County into five districts. If the referendum question passes with a majority vote, the apportionment commission is required to submit an apportionment plan dividing Franklin County into three districts until 2024 and five districts thereafter. The terms of office of the commissioners under the three-district plan expire in 2024 and the terms of office of the commissioners under the five-district plan are staggered. If the referendum question does not pass, the apportionment commission is required to submit an apportionment plan dividing Franklin County into three districts with the terms of office of the commissioners based on current law.

LD 826 Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System To Study the Potential Effects of the State Adopting Atlantic Standard Time

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 86 directs the University of Maine System to study and analyze, within available resources, the potential effects on the State's economy of the State adopting permanent Atlantic Standard Time and determine if that adoption will serve the convenience of commerce as required by the United States Department of Transportation. A report must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by February 15, 2022. The Joint Standing Committee may submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Funding for the study must be through private donations to the University of Maine System. If sufficient resources are not available, the University of Maine System is not obligated to undertake work under this Resolve.