

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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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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.