



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2050

S.P. 723

In Senate, January 16, 2020

**An Act To Establish the Central Aroostook County Emergency
Medical Services Authority**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative JOHANSEN of Monticello and
Representatives: STEWART of Presque Isle, WHITE of Washburn.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** beginning in April 2020, Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine will be
4 without emergency medical services; and

5 **Whereas,** this situation places the entire population of those towns at enormous risk;
6 and

7 **Whereas,** it is imperative that this situation be rectified immediately; and

8 **Whereas,** in order to secure emergency medical services for Mars Hill, Bridgewater
9 and Blaine it is necessary to create a quasi-municipal corporation to provide such
10 services; and

11 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
14 therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. Establishment.** The Central Aroostook County Emergency Medical
17 Services Authority, referred to in this Act as "the authority," is established to facilitate the
18 provision of emergency medical services to the citizens of Mars Hill, Bridgewater and
19 Blaine.

20 **Sec. 2. Board of directors.** The authority is governed by a board of directors,
21 referred to in this Act as "the board." The board consists of 9 members:

- 22 1. Three from Mars Hill, selected by its municipal officers;
- 23 2. Three from Bridgewater, selected by its municipal officers; and
- 24 3. Three from Blaine, selected by its municipal officers.

25 For the purposes of this section, "municipal officers" has the same meaning as in the
26 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2001, subsection 10.

27 The members of the board are appointed for terms of 2 years, except that one of the initial
28 members from each municipality is appointed for a term of 3 years. The members may
29 be reappointed at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

30 **Sec. 3. Powers.** The authority may:

- 31 1. Employ and compensate personnel, consultants, technical and professional
32 assistants and an emergency medical services medical director;

1 2. Make and enter into contracts and agreements and, pursuant to the bylaws of the
2 authority, purchase or lease all vehicles and equipment necessary to provide emergency
3 medical services to members;

4 3. Hold public hearings and sponsor public forums;

5 4. Sue and be sued in its own name;

6 5. Accept funds, grants and services from federal, state, county and municipal
7 governments or any agency thereof, gifts and stipends from its member towns and private
8 gifts from individuals and entities; and

9 6. Apply for and accept loans and allocate and disburse funds received to carry out
10 the purposes of the authority.

11 Debts of the authority authorized under this Act do not constitute or create any debt or
12 liability on behalf of the State. Debts incurred under this Act do not directly, indirectly or
13 contingently obligate the State to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any
14 appropriation for their payment. This section may not be construed to prevent the
15 authority from pledging its full faith and credit to the payment of loans or other debts
16 authorized pursuant to this Act.

17 **Sec. 4. Duties.** The authority shall:

18 1. Prepare an annual budget and require an annual audit that is made available for
19 public inspection;

20 2. Follow uniform standards provided in the Maine Revised Statutes insofar as they
21 relate to Department of Public Safety rules;

22 3. Make provisions for emergency medical services in Mars Hill, Bridgewater and
23 Blaine and, on a contract basis, other areas where new services are to be provided;
24 however, where emergency medical services are already provided by existing services,
25 they are not abolished by this Act without the express consent of the governing body of
26 the area where services are being provided and vote of the existing medical services'
27 board;

28 4. Implement a subscription membership program unless otherwise prohibited by
29 law; and

30 5. Set and annually adjust an approved cost-basis schedule that is uniform
31 throughout Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine.

32 **Sec. 5. Organization; conduct of business.** The board must be organized and
33 its business must be conducted in accordance with the following.

34 1. The board shall elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer from among its
35 members.

