

## 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022**

**Legislative Document** 

No. 2005

H.P. 1491

House of Representatives, March 2, 2022

An Act Regarding the Reapportionment of the Knox County Budget Committee Districts

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 28, 2022. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.

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

**Whereas,** the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757 requires the Knox County Commissioners to prepare a redistricting plan for Knox County budget committee seats by June 1, 2021 and submit that plan to the Secretary of State; and

**Whereas,** upon receipt of the redistricting plan, the Secretary of State is required to submit the plan to the Legislature for "review and enactment"; and

**Whereas**, although the Knox County Commissioners determined that no changes in the budget committee districts were necessary, this legislation is needed to provide clarity in time for the elections of budget committee members this year; and

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

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

- **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §757, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 481, §1, is further amended to read:
- 1. Redistricting process. The county commissioners shall review the districts established in subsection 2 and, if changes are necessary, prepare a redistricting plan for county budget committee seats by June 1, 2021 2031 and every 10 years thereafter. The county commissioners shall submit the any redistricting plan to the Secretary of State within 5 days of adoption. The If redistricting is required, the Secretary of State shall immediately transmit the redistricting plan to the Legislature for review and enactment.
- **Sec. 2. Knox County budget committee districts.** Notwithstanding that provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 1 that requires a redistricting plan to be prepared in 2021 by the Knox County Commissioners and reviewed and enacted by the Legislature, the Knox County budget committee districts specified in Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the same until a redistricting plan is submitted to the Secretary of State by the Knox County Commissioners in 2031 or later and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature.
- **Sec. 3. Application.** This Act is not intended to affect the terms of the Knox County budget committee members in office on the effective date of this Act.
- **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

35 SUMMARY

Under current law, beginning in June 2021, the Knox County Commissioners are required to prepare a redistricting plan for the Knox County budget committee districts and submit that plan to the Secretary of State, who is required to submit it to the Legislature for review and enactment. In 2021, the Knox County Commissioners determined that the budget committee districts in place did not need to be adjusted, so no new plan for redistricting was capable of being enacted by the Legislature, as required by the law.

To overcome this issue and avoid it in the future, this bill:

- 1. Allows the Knox County Commissioners, beginning in June 2031, to determine whether changes to the budget committee districts are needed and, only if changes are necessary, submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State, who must submit the plan to the Legislature for review and enactment; and
- 2. Declares that, for purposes of the 2021 redistricting of the Knox County budget committee districts, the districts established currently in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the districts until the Knox County Commissioners submit a redistricting plan to the Secretary of State and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature. This bill also explicitly states that it is not intended to affect the terms of the budget committee members in office on the effective date of the legislation.