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Date: (Filing No. H-)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 255, L.D. 422, “An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Provide Public Notice in Newspapers”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities, Counties and Quasi-municipal Corporations and Districts Provide Public Notice in Newspapers'

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §604 is enacted to read:

§604. Exception

1. Exception. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a quasi-municipal corporation or district required by law to place a notice in a newspaper may meet this requirement by issuing a press release to a newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the corporation or district and by placing the notice on the publicly accessible website of the corporation or district, as long as the notice on the website contains all information required to be published in a newspaper. For purposes of this section, "quasi-municipal corporation or district" means any governmental unit that includes a portion of a municipality, a single municipality or several municipalities and that is created by law to deliver public services but that is not a general purpose governmental unit. "Quasi-municipal corporation or district" does not include school administrative units or hospital districts.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §9 is enacted to read:

§9. Public notice

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a county required by this Title to place a notice in a newspaper may meet this requirement by issuing a press release to a newspaper of general circulation in the county and by placing the notice on the county's publicly accessible website, as long as the notice on the website contains all information required to be published in a newspaper.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill in section 1 in §2007 in the first indented paragraph in the 2nd line
2 (page 1, line 5 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "by" the following: 'issuing a press
3 release to a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality and by'

4 Amend the bill in section 1 in §2007 in the first indented paragraph in the 3rd line (page
5 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "its" and inserting the following: 'the
6 municipality's'

7 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
8 number to read consecutively.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds the requirement
11 that a municipality must issue a press release to a newspaper of general circulation in the
12 municipality. It also permits county governments and quasi-municipal corporations and
13 districts to use this same alternative method to provide public notice required in the Maine
14 Revised Statutes.

15 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

16 **(See attached)**