An Act to Allow Electronic Distribution of Certain Documents to Municipalities and Electronic Acknowledgment of Receipt of Certain Documents as Acceptable Communications

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DHALAC of South Portland, MATLACK of St. George, PLUECKER of Warren, ROBERTS of South Berwick, WARREN of Scarborough, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, ZEIGLER of Montville.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §701, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Public hearing. The county commissioners shall hold a public hearing in the county on these estimates before the end of the county's fiscal year. They shall publish a notice of the hearing at least 10 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the estimates must be sent by electronic or regular mail or delivered in person to the clerk of each municipality in the county at least 10 days before the hearing, and the clerk shall provide confirmation of receipt by electronic or regular mail. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the receipt of the estimates.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §764, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §8, is further amended to read:

§764. Public hearing

The Hancock County commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the budget estimate at least 90 days before the end of the county's fiscal year and an informational meeting on the advisory committee's budget estimates at least 30 days before the end of the county's fiscal year. Pursuant to the requirements of section 701, subsection 3, written notice and a copy of the estimates must be sent by electronic or regular mail or delivered in person to each member of the county legislative delegation at least 10 days before the informational meeting on the annual budget.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §855, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

3. Public hearing. The budget committee shall hold a public hearing in the county on the proposed budget before the end of the county's fiscal year and before the final adoption of the budget. Notice of the hearing must be given at least 10 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent by registered electronic or certified regular mail, with return receipt requested, confirmation of receipt sent by electronic or regular mail, or be delivered in person, with proof received of the delivery, to the clerk of each municipality in the county. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the proposed budget.

SUMMARY

Current law requires that annual estimates of proposed county taxes and notices of public hearings on proposed county taxes must be sent to the clerk of each municipality in the county by mail or delivered in person and that proposed county budgets and notices of public hearings on proposed county budgets must be sent to the clerk of each municipality in the county by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered in person. This bill allows those proposed county taxes and budgets and public hearing notices to be sent by electronic or regular mail, with confirmation of receipt by electronic or regular mail, or delivered in person.