



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 397

H.P. 272

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Development and
Administration of Municipal Budgets in Unorganized Territories**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Bethel.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DOAK of Columbia Falls, JACKSON of Oxford, KNIGHT
of Livermore Falls, PETERSON of Rumford, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §7503, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. C, §12, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Procedure.** Before ~~November 7th~~ February 1st of each year, the county
5 commissioners of each county shall provide to the ~~members of the county legislative~~
6 ~~delegation~~ fiscal administrator of the unorganized territory a ~~preliminary~~ budget for the
7 services to be provided under this chapter to the unorganized territory in the next fiscal
8 year. These ~~preliminary~~ budgets ~~shall~~ must be provided in a form that shows how the
9 funds are to be spent for each category of service identified in section 7501 and any
10 projected surplus for the year of unorganized territory funds held by the county. The
11 county commissioners ~~shall~~ must provide an opportunity for public comment on the
12 ~~preliminary budget at the same time as in~~ a public hearing is held ~~on~~ in one or more
13 locations within the county ~~budget, as provided under Part 1, chapter 3, subchapter I~~ in
14 the month of December or January preceding the February 1st deadline.

15 ~~The budget for the unorganized territory shall be finalized at the same time as the regular~~
16 ~~county budget.~~ A copy of the finalized budget and an accurate identification of any
17 surplus ~~which that~~ can be used to reduce the amount needed to be collected in taxes ~~shall~~
18 must be submitted to the State Tax Assessor and to the fiscal administrator of the
19 unorganized territory by ~~January~~ March 1st of each year.

20 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1604, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1985, c. 459,
21 Pt. C, §14, is amended to read:

22 **1. Recommendation to the Legislature.** The fiscal administrator of the
23 unorganized territory shall submit to the Legislature, by ~~March~~ April 1st, annually, a bill
24 listing the requests of all counties and agencies under this chapter.

25 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §1611, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 624, §1, is
26 amended to read:

27 A. A governmental body with the authority to approve the county municipal cost
28 component under Title 30-A, chapter 305 may exceed or increase the county growth
29 limitation only if that action is approved by a majority of ~~the county budget~~
30 ~~committee or county budget advisory committee~~ and the county commissioners.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends the laws governing the development and administration of the
33 county portion of municipal cost component budgets for the unorganized territory.

34 The bill changes counties' annual deadlines for submitting to state officials their
35 unorganized territory municipal cost component budgets from November 7th to February
36 1st.

1 The bill separates a county's review of its unorganized territory municipal cost
2 component budget from its general fund budget review, thus allowing more time for both
3 processes.

4 The bill also eliminates the role of a county budget committee in approving an excess
5 or increase in the county growth limitation factor for the unorganized territory.