



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1350

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H.P. 864

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

**An Act Regarding the Composition of the Budget Advisory  
Committee and the Finality of the Budget in the Franklin County  
Budget Process**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LANDRY of Farmington.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: HALL of Wilton, SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §873, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 495, is amended to  
3 read:

4 **1. Municipal officers.** Municipal officers within each commissioner district shall  
5 caucus and shall elect municipal officers from that district to fill vacancies ~~as they arise,~~  
6 for terms as provided in paragraph A B.

7 A. Members shall serve for 3-year terms, except that initially each district caucus shall  
8 select one member for a one-year term, one member for a 2-year term and one member  
9 for a 3-year term. There must be 3 members from each commissioner district. If a  
10 committee member ceases to be a municipal officer during the term of membership,  
11 the committee member shall resign the membership and the next district caucus shall  
12 elect a qualified municipal officer to fill the membership for the remainder of the  
13 unexpired term.

14 B. Each commissioner district has 2 permanent members. Members serve for 3-year  
15 terms. There is a rotating member who serves a one-year term, selected in 2025 by  
16 commissioner district one, selected in 2026 by commissioner district 2, selected in  
17 2027 by commissioner district 3, selected in 2028 by commissioner district 4, selected  
18 in 2029 by commissioner district 5 and selected in 2030 and succeeding years in the  
19 same order as the first 5 years under this paragraph. If a committee member ceases to  
20 be a municipal officer during the term of membership, the committee member shall  
21 resign the membership and the next district caucus shall elect a qualified municipal  
22 officer to fill the membership for the remainder of the unexpired term.

23 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §874, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 495, is amended to  
24 read:

25 **4. Finality of budget.** After the public hearing is completed, the advisory committee  
26 shall adopt a final budget and transmit that budget to the county commissioners. The  
27 county commissioners may not further increase, decrease, alter or revise the budget adopted  
28 by the advisory committee, except by ~~unanimous~~ a 3/5 vote of the entire membership of  
29 the county commissioners. If the adopted budget is changed by the county commissioners,  
30 the advisory committee may reject that change by a 2/3 vote of its membership. Those  
31 actions are final and are not subject to further action by either the county commissioners or  
32 the advisory committee.

33 **Sec. 3. Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee initial terms.**  
34 Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 873, subsection 1,  
35 paragraph B, members of the Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee serve for 3-  
36 year terms, except initially commissioner districts one and 2 shall select one member for a  
37 one-year term and one member for a 2-year term, commissioner districts 3 and 4 shall select  
38 one member for a 2-year term and one member for a 3-year term and commissioner district  
39 5 shall select one member for a one-year term and one member for a 3-year term.

40 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** This Act takes effect November 5, 2024.

**SUMMARY**

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On November 5, 2024, current law changes the number of commissioner districts in Franklin County from 3 districts to 5 districts. This bill changes the composition of the Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee to reflect the change in commissioner districts by changing the composition of the committee from 3 to 5 districts and from 3 members for each district serving 3-year terms to 2 permanent members for each district serving 3-year terms and one rotating member serving a one-year term, with each district selecting the rotating member for one year of the 5-year period. The bill also changes the vote for the final adoption of the Franklin County budget from a unanimous vote to a 3/5 vote of the entire membership of the county commissioners. The legislation takes effect November 5, 2024.