



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1553

S.P. 488

In Senate, April 11, 2019

**An Act Directing That the Towns Constituting Hospital
Administrative District No. 4 Hold a Vote on the Proposed Merger
with Northern Light Health**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft and
Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, LOCKMAN of Bradley, STEARNS of Guilford.

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

3 **Whereas,** Hospital Administrative District No. 4, established pursuant to Private
4 and Special Law 1973, chapter 76, is composed of the member communities of Abbot,
5 Atkinson, Bradford, Cambridge, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford, Milo, Monson,
6 Parkman, Sangerville, Sebec and Willimantic; and

7 **Whereas,** the board of directors of the district has determined that Mayo Regional
8 Hospital, which is the hospital serving the communities in the district, is unable to
9 continue operation in a financially sustainable manner as an independent hospital and that
10 the best way to ensure access to necessary, high-quality, affordable health care for the
11 people served by Mayo Regional Hospital is for the district to merge with Northern Light
12 Health, a larger nonprofit health care system; and

13 **Whereas,** in order for such a merger to take place, the Legislature must amend the
14 charter for the district; and

15 **Whereas,** before the legislative delegations representing the affected communities
16 pursue legislation to amend the charter to facilitate such a merger, it is important to solicit
17 input from the affected communities; and

18 **Whereas,** this legislation directs the towns of Abbot, Atkinson, Bradford,
19 Cambridge, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford, Milo, Monson, Parkman, Sangerville,
20 Sebec and Willimantic to each hold a vote on the proposed merger by April 30, 2019 and
21 transmit the results of the vote to the board of directors of the district; and

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

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

27 **Sec. 1. Special advisory vote on merger of Hospital Administrative**
28 **District No. 4.** Notwithstanding any applicable notice requirements, each of the towns
29 of Abbot, Atkinson, Bradford, Cambridge, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford, Milo,
30 Monson, Parkman, Sangerville, Sebec and Willimantic shall hold an advisory vote no
31 later than April 30, 2019 on the proposed merger of Hospital Administrative District No.
32 4 with Northern Light Health, in accordance with the agreement and plan of merger dated
33 February 27, 2019 between Hospital Administrative District No. 4 and Northern Light
34 Health. Unless a town's charter otherwise provides, the vote must be taken at a town
35 meeting. The municipal officers of each town shall invite the inhabitants of the town to
36 give their opinion on this question by voting on the following:

37 "Do you favor the merger of Hospital Administrative District No. 4,
38 which is served by Mayo Regional Hospital, with Northern Light Health,
39 a Maine nonprofit corporation, in accordance with the agreement and

1 plan of merger between Hospital Administrative District No. 4 and
2 Northern Light Health dated February 27, 2019, and amending the
3 Hospital Administrative District No. 4 charter in order to facilitate the
4 completion of the merger?"

5 The results of the vote in each town must be declared by the municipal officers of the
6 town and transmitted to the board of directors of Hospital Administrative District No. 4.

7 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
8 legislation takes effect when approved.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill requires that, notwithstanding any applicable notice requirements, each of
11 the towns of Abbot, Atkinson, Bradford, Cambridge, Dexter, Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford,
12 Milo, Monson, Parkman, Sangerville, Sebec and Willimantic hold an advisory vote no
13 later than April 30, 2019 on the proposed merger of Hospital Administrative District No.
14 4 with Northern Light Health. Unless a town's charter otherwise provides, the vote must
15 be taken at a town meeting. The results of the vote in each town must be declared by the
16 municipal officers of the town and transmitted to the board of directors of Hospital
17 Administrative District No. 4.