

**LD 462 An Act To Reexamine the Relationship among County, Municipal and State Governments**

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

From: Lynne Caswell, Esq., Legislative Analyst

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electronic file <http://legislature.maine.gov/ctl/SLG/03-08-2021?panel=2&time=0&sortdir=0&sortby=2>

**SUMMARY**

This bill is a concept draft to create a committee to study:

1. The relationship among county, municipal and state governments;
2. The roles of county government in other states;
3. Which, if any, of those roles might be beneficial in this State;
4. Whether the existing powers of county government are adequate to fill those roles; and
5. Whether the powers of county government should be increased to help county governments provide regional leadership in various areas, including health care, education data collection and workforce development.

**TESTIMONY<sup>1</sup>**

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**Sponsor:** Rep Sylvester – concept draft to study whether state services can be better delivered on a regional or local basis

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**Proponents:** York County Government (Greg Zinser); Cumberland County Government by Director of Public Affairs Travis Kennedy

1. Expand existing relationships
  2. Dialogue is helpful;
  3. Regional solutions
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**Opponents:** Maine Municipal Association (Rebecca Graham)

1. “strongly opposed” to several sentiments expressed in statement of intent and because it is a concept draft
  2. Hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing to allow testimony on developed language
  3. Comparison with other states is not appropriate; 16 county governments are not all the same
  4. Government closest to the people is best
  5. Need to improve checks and balances on county government before expanding their duties county
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**NFNA:** Maine County Commissioners Association (President Stephen Gorden); GrowSmart Maine (ED Nancy Smith)

1. Supportive of general goal but lacks specifics
  2. Work group to determine
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<sup>1</sup> The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.

3. View in context of LD 426 – State Planning Office
4. Ignores existing regional entities (Regional Planning Commissions, Economic Development Districts, councils of Governments)

**INFORMATION REQUESTS / MATTERS TO CONSIDER**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)**

None provided as of this date.