

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 94 - L.D. 153

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

**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 the~~ estimates before the end of the county's fiscal year. ~~They~~ At least 10 days before the hearing, the county commissioners shall publish a notice of the hearing at least 10 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Written and provide written notice and a copy of the estimates must be sent by mail or delivered in person to the clerk of each municipality in the county at least 10 days before the hearing by e-mail, regular mail or delivery in person to the clerk, except that the county commissioners shall provide the written notice and a copy of the estimates by e-mail or regular mail if a municipality requests delivery by one of these methods. If the notice is delivered by e-mail or regular mail, the municipal clerk shall confirm receipt of the notice and a copy of the estimates by e-mail or regular mail. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the receipt of the estimates.

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §725, sub-§4**, 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:

**4. Public hearing on revised budget.** The budget committee shall hold at least one additional public hearing in the county on the proposed budget, as revised by the budget committee, 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 all newspapers of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget shall be ~~mailed sent~~ or delivered in person to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §739-B, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 475, §§1 and 2, is amended to read:

**3. Public hearing.** The finance committee shall hold a public hearing in the county on its proposed budget before the end of the county's fiscal year and before the final adoption of the budget. Notice of the hearing shall be given at least 10 days before the hearing in all newspapers of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget shall be sent ~~by mail~~, or delivered ~~in person~~, to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §742-A, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §5, is further amended to read:

**4. Public hearings.** Public hearings on the proposed budget must be held by the budget advisory committee and county commissioners in each commissioner's district at least one month prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Notice of these hearings must be given at least 10 days before the hearing in newspapers of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~, or delivered ~~in person~~, to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the receipt of the proposed budget and the date of the hearings.

**Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §753, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 257, is amended to read:

**3. Public hearing.** The budget committee shall hold a public hearing in the county on its 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 all newspapers of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~ or delivered ~~in person~~ to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the receipt of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 6. 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~~ Written notice and a copy of the estimates must be sent ~~by mail~~ or delivered ~~in person~~ to each member of the county legislative delegation in accordance with section 701, subsection 3 at least 10 days before the informational meeting on the annual budget.

**Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §825, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 663, §13, is further amended to read:

**4. Public hearing.** The county commissioners shall hold a public hearing in the county on the proposed budget at least 30 days 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 all newspapers of general circulation within the county. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~ or delivered ~~in person~~ to the clerk of each municipality in the county and to the members of the budget committee in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget and the date of the public hearing.

**Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §833, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 623, §1, is 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 in all newspapers of general circulation within the county at least 10 days before the hearing. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~, or delivered ~~in person~~, to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 9. 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 shall 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 shall be sent ~~by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested~~, or delivered ~~in person, with proof received of the delivery~~, to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officers of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 10. 30-A MRSA §864, sub-§3-A**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 533, §6 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

**3-A. Written notification.** Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent or delivered in accordance with section 701, subsection 3 at least 10 days before the public hearing to the clerk of each municipality in the county. The municipal clerk shall notify the elected officials of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 11. 30-A MRSA §874, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 495, is amended to read:

**3. Public hearing.** The advisory 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 in all newspapers of general circulation within the county at least 10 days before the hearing. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~, or delivered ~~in person~~, to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget.

**Sec. 12. 30-A MRSA §897, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 582, §1, is 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 final adoption of the budget. Notice of the hearing must be given in all newspapers of general circulation within the county at least 10 days before the hearing. Written notice and a copy of the proposed budget must be sent ~~by mail~~ or delivered ~~in person~~ to the clerk of each municipality in the county in accordance with section 701, subsection 3. The municipal clerk shall notify the municipal officials of the proposed budget.