

129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 520

H.P. 377

House of Representatives, January 31, 2019

An Act To Resolve Tie Votes by the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee

(EMERGENCY)

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias. (BY REQUEST)

- 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,** county budget advisory committees perform a valuable public service in 4 the development of the budgets of their respective counties; and
- 5 **Whereas,** it serves the public interest for county budget advisory committees to 6 resolve disagreements and issues regarding deliberations concerning county budgets and 7 recommendations made by the committees; and
- 8 Whereas, it is difficult, and sometimes impossible, for a budget advisory committee 9 to perform its duties and issue recommendations with an even number of members, as an 10 impasse can result; and
- 11 **Whereas,** currently the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee has an 12 even number of members and, in order to properly perform its duties regarding the 2019 13 county budget, a mechanism to resolve tie votes needs to be in place prior to September 14 of this year; and
- Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
- 19 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 20 Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §900-B, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Tie votes. In the event of a tie vote on an item, the budget advisory committee
 shall present the item to the county commissioners, who shall decide the item by majority
 vote. The county commissioners may vote under this subsection only on an item that is
 presented by the budget advisory committee.

- Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
- 27 SUMMARY
 28 This bill provides that in the event of a tie vote on a budget item by the Washington
 29 County Budget Advisory Committee, the committee is required to present the item to the
 30 Washington County commissioners to decide by majority vote.