

**§6111. Complaint; notice**

**1. Commissioners may file complaint.** If the commissioner or commissioners who are in charge of the affairs of any municipality under this chapter believe that the municipality has incurred, prior to the date on which the board took over the administration of the municipality's affairs, debts and obligations in excess of the debt limit fixed by the Constitution of Maine for the municipality, and, except for section 6109 the municipality would be subjected to a multiplicity of actions, the commissioner or commissioners may bring a complaint in the name of the inhabitants of the municipality in the Superior Court in the county in which the municipality is located against all of the known persons holding any debts or obligations against the inhabitants of the municipality, to have the validity of all the debts and obligations of the municipality determined.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Attorney General to represent petitioners.** The Attorney General shall appear for and on behalf of the petitioner in these proceedings. The commissioner or commissioners in charge of the municipality's affairs shall pay the expense of the Attorney General's representation from any funds in their control.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Filing deadline; notice.** The court may fix a time within which all persons holding claims or demands against the inhabitants of the municipality must file their claim or demand for adjudication of its validity as an obligation of the municipality. The court shall order public notice to be given to creditors of the inhabitants of the municipality to file their claims within the time specified. The notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the municipality is located for at least 3 successive weeks. The last publication must be at least 30 days before the final date set by the court for filing claims against the inhabitants of the municipality. The court, in its discretion, may order any additional notice to be given that is proper and necessary.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Hearing.** After notice has been given under subsection 3 and before the period for filing claims against the inhabitants of the municipality has expired, the court shall fix the time for hearing upon the claims so filed to determine the validity and amount of the obligation. This hearing may be adjourned from time to time.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Appeal to Law Court.** Any party aggrieved by the finding of the Superior Court may appeal to the Supreme Judicial Court. The time for taking the appeal and the manner and any conditions for the taking of the appeal are as the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule. The judgment of the Superior Court is binding upon all parties unless appealed under this subsection.

[PL 2001, c. 17, §5 (AMD).]

**6. Effect of judgment.** All obligations determined by the court not to be valid claims against the inhabitants of the municipality shall be forever barred in any action against the inhabitants of the municipality. The court's finding may be pleaded as a bar to any action brought upon the claim or claims.

All indebtedness adjudicated to be valid against the inhabitants of the municipality by the finding of the Superior Court or on appeal, if an appeal is taken by either party, shall be thereafter considered as a valid outstanding indebtedness against the inhabitants of the municipality.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 17, §5 (AMD).

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