**EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGE**

The original purpose was torepeal the Chapter 10 Rule. Statutory authority for this Rule was listed as: 5 MRSA, Chapter 6, §95-B; 30-A MRSA §1705. 30-A MRSA §1705 had already been repealed several years ago. Title 5, Chapter 6 details the duties of the State Archivist. State and Local Government records encompass both of these duties. However, it had become increasingly more and more difficult to meet the needs and demands of our local government constituents and develop proper guidance and procedures required due to the nature of the extensive rulemaking process when there were already specific guidelines written in statute with which both state and local government agencies must comply. State agencies are allowed to submit new schedules and amendments to the Records Management office at any time and have their submissions reviewed in a timely manner. By following the rulemaking practices, local government agencies waited for a very lengthy process for any changes to occur. We found no basis for why the local schedules should be handled differently than the state agency or general state schedules. We looked at the history of both the Archives Advisory Board minutes, the prior Local Government Board and County Boards and did not find any concrete evidence as to why this was put in place other than to give towns and/or the public the opportunity for input. We determined this could easily be accomplished by having an appointed Board made up of people from various backgrounds and having public meetings where local records are discussed.

Local governments will continue to comply with Local Government Schedules created and issued by the Maine State Archives and follow those schedules under 5 MRSA, Chapter 6, §95-B, which states:   “Each local government official shall comply with the standards, procedures and regulations issued by the Archives Advisory Board.”  It is our plan to continue the local government standards and schedules regulated through the State Archivist and Board, as specified in statute.  To that end, the Chapter 10 Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records are now being replaced with Local Government Record Retention Schedules.  There will be no disruption in services to the municipalities as this is considered an immediate change.  Comprehensive design and direction remain much the same as previous Chapter 10 Rules.  Our overall mission is to make this a more efficient and effective process for all parties involved.  Schedules will continue to be posted to our website, we will send electronic or paper documentation upon request and we will provide guidance and assistance as we do now.