

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 586

S.P. 232

Received by the Secretary, February 12, 1991

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President PRAY of Penobscot

Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland, Representative CHONKO of Topsham and Representative MAYO of Thomaston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Provide the Legislature with Revenue Forecasting Capabilities.

(EMERGENCY)

Printed on recycled paper



2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 Whereas, the legislative branch and the executive branch are
in need of regular, objective projections of state revenue; and

8 Whereas, such projections are needed to ensure coordinated
public policy decisions and informed decisions on spending
choices; and

12 Whereas, this legislation provides the Legislature with the
capability to project revenues in the future and to provide input
into revenue projections for fiscal year 1990-91 and for the
1992-93 biennium; and

16 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,

22 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

24 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §163-A, sub-§10-A is enacted to read:**

26 10-A. Revenue projections. To develop state revenue
28 projections for the next fiscal biennium and to analyze revenue
projections for the current fiscal biennium. The revenue
30 projections and analyses must be provided to the Legislative
Council, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
32 jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the
joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
34 over taxation. The revenue projections and analyses must be
provided to other joint standing or joint select committees of
36 the Legislature upon request;

38 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §§1663-A and 1666-A are enacted to read:**

40 §1663-A. Access to information

42 In order to assist the legislative staff in meeting its
responsibilities under Title 3, section 163-A, the Department of
44 Finance shall cooperate with the office designated by the
Legislative Council as having responsibility for expenditure and
46 revenue analyses in terms of providing information and data.
Legislative staff is bound by the confidentiality restrictions
48 concerning certain tax records as described in Title 36, chapter
7.

2 **§1666-A. Revenue estimate; conference**

4 In the event that the revenue projections or analyses
6 authorized in sections 1663 and 1666 and Title 3, section 163-A,
8 subsection 10-A do not concur, the Director of Fiscal and Program
10 Review and the State Budget Officer shall confer on any and all
12 areas of disagreement and issue a conference report on their
mutual recommendations. In the event they are unable to mutually
consent to any total revenue projection for any fund, they shall
jointly present their findings and recommendations to the
Legislative Council and the Governor at their earliest
convenience.

14 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §191, sub-§2, ¶N,** as amended by PL 1987, c.
16 769, Pt. A, §148, is repealed and the following enacted in its
place:

18 N. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor of any
20 corporate or individualized income tax data, sales and use
22 tax data, business tax data, property tax data or other tax
24 data to a fiscal research and analysis agency of the
26 Legislature. This information may be requested in any form,
including paper records, computerized data, individual
records or summary statistics, but may not be transmitted
with any identification by taxpayer name, number or address;
and

28 **Sec. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
30 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1991-92	1992-93
32 LEGISLATURE		
34 Legislature		
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50 LEGISLATURE		
TOTAL	<u>\$313,500</u>	<u>\$159,000</u>

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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a revenue forecasting capability within the nonpartisan staff offices of the Legislature. The bill provides a mechanism by which discrepancies between executive branch and legislative branch revenue projections could be remedied.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
STATE OF TEXAS
AUGUST 17, 1993
11:00 AM