

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REPORT A

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 416, L.D. 566, Bill, "An Act to Provide Computers for Use in the Legislature"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§11, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 590, §4, is amended to read:

11. Legislative equipment and supplies. To provide necessary furniture, stationery and other supplies and equipment for the use of the members, committees, agencies and offices of the Legislature. The Legislative Council shall expeditiously approve and implement a plan to provide an automated, integrated computer system for managing legislative activity and information. Information made available through this system must be in a format compatible with other major computer systems in State Government. To the extent feasible, the plan must include provisions for:

A. Stationary or portable computer hardware for each member of the Legislature; and

B. Development of computer software to allow members, committees and staff immediate access to all Acts of the Legislature, pending legislation and amendments that are not confidential pursuant to law or policy of the Legislature, status of pending legislation, the Maine Revised Statutes and legislative committee schedules.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

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The bill requires the Legislature Council to implement a plan to make certain computer services available to members of the Legislature. The Legislature will require a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,385,000 to provide computers for all legislators. This appropriation amount provides for the cost of hardware, software, licensing fees and basic computer training. The year in which this appropriation will be required will depend upon the time frame established to implement the plan. An additional one-time expenditure for chamber renovations and wiring will also be required. A portion of the funding required for this work is available from general obligation bond funds. Funding for the remainder of this work has been included in LD 2259, "An Act to Preserve the State House and to Renovate State Facilities." The ability of the Legislature to implement this plan will also depend on its migration to a fully functioning client server network. The Legislature has estimated that this migration will require a General Fund appropriation of \$1,051,400 for full implementation.

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This estimate does not include any ongoing General Fund appropriations for additional information systems support staff to provide services for new computer users. These amounts can not be determined at this time. These costs may be partially offset by savings in printing expenses if the number of printed documents is able to be reduced by their availability on computer.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment replaces the bill. It requires the Legislative Council to implement provisions for a computerization plan for the Legislature but provides more flexibility in the design of the system and in the timing of implementation.