

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 566

H.P. 416

House of Representatives, January 28, 1997

An Act to Provide Computers for Use in the Legislature.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: CARLETON of Wells, SAXL of Portland, Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§11**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 590, §4, is amended to read:

6 **11. Legislative equipment and supplies.** To provide
8 necessary furniture, stationery and other supplies and equipment
10 for the use of the members, committees, agencies and offices of
12 the Legislature, The Legislative Council shall provide each
14 member of the Senate and the House of Representatives with a
16 computer system at each member's desk in the chamber of the
18 Senate or House of Representatives not later than December 1,
20 1998. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
22 shall oversee the installation of the computer systems in the
24 Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively. The
computer systems must be connected to a legislative computer
network that allows each member 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. The information made available
through the legislative computer network must be in a format that
is fully compatible with other major computer systems in State
Government:

26
28 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill requires the Legislative Council to provide a
32 computer system in the chambers of the Senate and House of
34 Representatives for each member of the Legislature. The computer
36 systems will allow Legislators immediate access to current law,
38 pending legislation, bill status and committee schedules.
40 Installation of the computers must be completed before the First
42 Regular Session of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Legislature.
Computer access to legislative information by Legislators at
their desks will reduce the number of documents that need to be
printed for Legislators. Online access to legislative
information also will decrease legislative printing costs and
delays during legislative sessions associated with the printing
of bills and amendments.