

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 985

H.P. 721

House of Representatives, February 11, 1997

An Act to Amend the Legislative Budget Process.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PLOWMAN of Hampden.

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 590, §4, is amended to read:

1. Legislative budgets. To ~~prepare and approve~~ administer all legislative budgets approved pursuant to section 162-C;

Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §162-C is enacted to read:

§162-C. Legislative budget process

The budget for the Legislature as proposed by the legislative budget committee established in subsection 1 must be approved by a 2/3 vote of each House of the Legislature.

1. Legislative budget committee. The legislative budget committee is established for each regular session of the Legislature and consists of the Legislative Council and 2 members of the Senate, each one representing a different major party, appointed by the President of the Senate and 2 members of the House of Representatives, each one representing a different major party, appointed by the Speaker of the House. The committee shall hold public meetings and notification of these meetings must be included in the advance journal and calendar or written supplements of each House of the Legislature.

2. Proposed line-item budget. The committee shall develop a proposed line-item budget and distribute the proposed budget to all Legislators for review.

3. Budget and budget records open to the public. The legislative budget and budget records are public records.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the budget process for the Legislature's budget. It establishes a legislative budget committee consisting of legislative leadership and 2 additional members of the Senate and 2 additional members of the House of Representatives. The proposed budget developed by the legislative budget committee must be approved by a 2/3 vote of each body of the Legislature. All records of the Legislature's budget proceedings are open to the public.