

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1372

H.P. 895

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

An Act to Establish a Special Committee to Review Routine Technical Rules

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 28, 2025. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and
Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, FREDERICKS of Sanford, LAVIGNE of
Berwick, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, Senator:
BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §11117 is enacted to read:

§11117. Special Committee on Regulatory Review

1. Review of routine technical rules. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 375 to the contrary, routine technical rules as described in section 8071, subsection 2 proposed for adoption or amendment under chapter 375, subchapter 2-A are subject to review by the Special Committee on Regulatory Review, established in this section for the purpose of reviewing routine technical rules, referred to in this section as "the committee."

2. Committee membership; chairs. The committee consists of 6 members of the Senate and 6 members of the House of Representatives, and the membership must be evenly divided between each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in each chamber. The appointment of members and the selection of chairs are established by joint rule of the Legislature.

3. Annual report. Beginning in 2028, the committee shall submit a report to the Legislature listing the routine technical rules as described in section 8071, subsection 2, sorted by agency, that were reviewed in the preceding calendar year and the action taken by the committee on each reviewed rule. The report may also include the following:

A. Recommended legislation proposing changes to the process for the adoption of routine technical rules; and

B. Recommendations for more effective collaboration among the Legislature, the executive branch and the judicial branch with regard to adoption, enforcement and adjudication of routine technical rules.

Sec. 2. Committee to adopt review procedure, recommend legislation. The Special Committee on Regulatory Review, referred to in this section as "the committee" and established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 11117, shall establish a process for the committee to review routine technical rules as described in Title 5, section 8071, subsection 2 proposed for adoption or amendment pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. At a minimum, the process must allow for the committee to review proposed routine technical rules for necessity, efficiency and a benefit of the rule to the public and for the committee to approve that a rule be adopted with or without change or to reject adoption of the rule. No later than February 1, 2026, the committee shall submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature proposing to amend Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A as necessary to conform the statutory authority for the adoption of routine technical rules with the review process established by the committee pursuant to this section and to incorporate that review process into law.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Special Committee on Regulatory Review to review routine technical rules. The committee consists of 6 members of the Senate and 6 members of the House of Representatives, evenly divided between each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in each chamber. The appointment of members and the selection of chairs are established by joint rule of the Legislature. The committee is directed to establish a process for reviewing routine technical rules for necessity, efficiency and the benefit of the

1 rule to the public. The process must allow the committee to approve the rule with or
2 without changes or reject adoption of the rule. The committee is required to submit
3 legislation proposing to amend the statutory authority for the adoption of routine technical
4 rules to conform to the review process established by the committee.