

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1410

S. P. 639

In Senate, March 28, 1949.

Received by unanimous consent. Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Haskell of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to New England Development Authority.

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

Sec. 1. Commissioner; compact with other New England states. The governor may appoint a commissioner, who shall serve at his pleasure and who is hereby authorized upon the part of the state of Maine to enter into, with the several states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, by and through the commissioners appointed under or by virtue of a law of the legislature of their respective states, an agreement or compact in the following form :

Whereas, New England is by virtue of geography and other considerations a great natural economic unit; and

Whereas, the several states which comprise this important region of the nation have in common many problems—agricultural, commercial and industrial; and

Whereas, the several governments of these states are dedicated to promoting the welfare of each one of them by the advancement of the common interest; and

Whereas, that salutary end can best be achieved by virtue of an interstate compact and the creation of a common agency to realize the objectives

set forth in this compact, now, therefore, the several states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut hereinafter referred to as the New England states, do hereby contract and agree with each other in the following respects.

ARTICLE I.

For the period of 10 years from the execution of this compact, unless by the mutual consent of all of the New England states it is terminated sooner, they agree to and pledge, between and among themselves, faithful cooperation in the future planning and development of the common economic interests, the special blessings and the natural advantages of the New England region, and to perform the undertakings hereinafter set forth.

ARTICLE II.

To that end the several states do agree that there shall be created and they do hereby create a Public Authority to be known as the New England Development Authority which shall exercise the powers and perform the duties which are hereinafter set forth. Said authority shall be a body corporate and politic and shall exercise, in addition to the powers and jurisdiction granted by this pact, such other and additional powers as shall be conferred upon it by the legislature of any of the states and concurred in by the legislatures of all the other states or by acts of Congress. Said Authority shall exist for the duration of the life of this compact.

ARTICLE III.

The Authority shall consist of 6 commissioners. The Governor of each of the several New England states shall each appoint 1 commissioner, who shall serve for the entire lifetime of this compact unless sooner removed by the Governor of the state from which he holds appointment, in which case he shall serve until his successor is qualified and takes office.

ARTICLE IV.

The commissioners shall, for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of this compact, constitute a board and may adopt suitable by-laws for its self-government.

ARTICLE V.

The Authority shall be provided with such funds, by each of the several states participating therein, as are necessary to provide the means of establishing and maintaining offices, a staff of personnel and such activities as may be necessary to fulfill the powers and duties imposed upon and en-

trusted to the Authority. Each of the several states agrees and, by virtue of this compact to the extent possible under the law, assumes the responsibility of contributing to the expenses of the Authority in such proportion as the population of each bears to the population of all of the states in the New England area as determined by the most recent federal census.

ARTICLE VI.

The Authority shall inquire into, determine the availability of and utilize all services which will further the survey required by this compact and which are now or hereinafter may be made available by agencies of the United States. It shall make similar inquiry and determination of the availability of federal grants in aid of developing such projects as the Authority may recommend in accordance with the provisions of the compact. Finally, the Authority shall take all necessary steps to procure such federal funds as may be available to assist it in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.

ARTICLE VII.

The Authority shall survey the natural and economic resources of New England together with the resources of adjacent areas which now or may hereafter affect the economy of New England and its development, including the utilization and control of the water resources of the region, especially in regard to achieving low cost electric power, lessening flood damage, removing sources of water pollution and obtaining from whatever source uniform or competitively fair power and light rates throughout New England, without prejudice to the agricultural or industrial economy of the area.

ARTICLE VIII.

The survey of the natural and economic resources called for in the preceding article shall include but shall not be limited to an investigation, study and a comprehensive report upon the importation of natural gas into the area by pipe line; the establishment of a steel industry in New England; the promotion and development of the textile, the electrical, the brass, and the shoe industries; and the conservation and expansion of marine fisheries, agriculture and timber and mineral production.

ARTICLE IX.

In making the required survey and all investigations, studies and reports in connection therewith, the Authority shall take all necessary and desirable steps to fulfill the objectives of this compact and shall, without pre-

cluding other means, and in addition to the facilities and data which may be placed at its disposal by agencies of the federal government, utilize whatever facilities and data which may be available from agencies of the several states and private sources. It shall compile, analyze, summarize and make publicly available the information gathered in a readily accessible and useful form. Thereafter it shall make such recommendations to the New England states as will in the judgment of the commissioners constituting the Authority fulfill the ends of this compact and promote the general welfare of the region.

ARTICLE X.

The Authority is hereby authorized to make suitable rules and regulations not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States or the constitutions of the New England states, and subject to the exercise of the power of Congress, for the execution of the purposes for which the Authority is created and which, when concurred in or authorized by the legislatures of all the states, shall be binding and effective upon all persons and corporations affected thereby.

ARTICLE XI.

The several states shall provide penalties for violation of any order, rule or regulation of the Authority and for the manner of enforcing the same.

ARTICLE XII.

The Authority shall not incur any obligations for salaries, offices or other administrative expenses prior to the making of appropriations adequate to meet the same.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Authority shall elect from its number a chairman and a vice-chairman and may appoint such officers and employees as it may require for the performance of its duties, and shall fix and determine their qualifications and duties.

ARTICLE XIV.

The legislatures of the New England states shall appropriate, in amounts proportionate to the ratio which the population of each bears to the population of all, for the salaries, offices and other administrative expenses, such sum or sums as shall be recommended by the Authority and approved by the governors of the several states.

ARTICLE XV.

No action of the Authority shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which at least 4 of the commissioners are present and unless a majority of those present concur. Each state reserves the right hereunder to provide by law for the exercise of a veto power by the governor thereof over any action of any commissioner appointed therefrom.

Sec. 2. Ratification of compact by July 1, 1950. If any one of the states of New England neglects, fails or refuses to enter into this compact by July 1, 1950, then the said compact shall be null and void.

Sec. 3. Filing of compact. The said agreement or compact, when signed and sealed by the commissioners of each state as hereinbefore provided, shall become binding upon this state and shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Massachusetts.

Sec. 4. Vacancies. If by death, resignation or otherwise a vacancy occurs among those appointed hereunder by the State of Maine, the Governor is hereby authorized to fill the same.

Sec. 5. Congressional consent. The said commissioner appointed hereunder, together with the commissioners appointed from all of the other New England states, shall have power to apply to the Congress of the United States for its consent and approval of the agreement or compact signed by them, provided that said consent and approval has not already been granted; but in the absence of such consent of Congress and until the same shall have been secured, the said agreement or compact shall be binding upon the State of Maine in all respects permitted by law for the several New England states without the consent of Congress to cooperate, for the purposes enumerated in said agreement or compact, and in the manner provided therein.

Sec. 6. Appropriation. To carry out the provisions of this act, there is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$20,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950 and \$20,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951.