

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1092**

H. P. 966

House of Representatives, March 1, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, sent up for concurrence and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Pierce of Bucksport.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FIVE

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**RESOLVE, for a Recess Committee to Study All Phases of Stream and Water Pollution with a View Toward Determining a Practical Solution and the Cost Thereof.**

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**Recess Committee to study stream and water pollution; appropriation. Resolved:** That a special recess committee be appointed to:

- I. Thoroughly investigate the extent, location and sources of water pollution in the State of Maine through the medium of existing studies, records and knowledge and the assembling of additional pertinent data;
- II. Ascertain the effect of water pollution on the State's municipalities, industries, commercial interests and the health, happiness and economic well-being of the people of the State, and to evaluate the tangible and intangible "costs" of such pollution;
- III. Investigate the financial aspects of pollution abatement in both the municipal and industrial fields;
- IV. Develop a sound or workable plan for securing funds to finance pollution control measures and facilities and to allocate the proper responsibility to provide such funds among private corporations, business enterprises, municipalities and the State of Maine.

The committee shall at the next regular session of the Legislature make a written report including such recommendation for legislation as the committee

may adopt, if any, together with a draft of such legislation. The committee shall consist of 13 members, to be made up as follows:

2 members of the Senate appointed by the President thereof;

2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker thereof;

9 members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council, one of whom shall be a member of the Water Improvement Commission, one of whom shall be an officer of a municipality in this State, one of whom shall be an official of a manufacturing company discharging industrial waste into the waters of this State, one of whom shall be a member of a fish and game club or organization in this State, one of whom shall be a member of a bona fide labor organization in this State, one of whom shall be a chemical engineer associated with a college or university located in this State, one of whom shall be connected with some aspect of the sea and shore fishery industry in this State, one of whom shall be associated with some aspect of the recreational industry in this State, and one of whom is actively engaged in public health work in this State; and be it further

**Resolved:** That said committee shall meet as soon as practicable after appointment for the purpose of organization including the election of a chairman and secretary; and be it further

**Resolved:** That the sum of \$75,000 be appropriated from the general fund of the State and made available for this study to employ competent and professional assistance and to defray the necessary travel and other expenses incurred in connection with the study of the problem and the preparation of a report thereon; and be it further

**Resolved:** That all members of this committee shall be entitled to \$15 per diem and actual expenses, while engaged on the official business of this committee.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The continuing controversy regarding the pollution problem clearly indicates that neither those who advocate, nor those who oppose control or abatement of pollution of our lakes, rivers or streams are in possession of sufficient factual information upon which to predicate a sound legislative program. The effect of premature or unwise legislation could be most harmful to our overall economy, **and conversely**, a sound legislative approach to the problem would be in the interest of all our people.

With practically all our cities and towns and a substantial number of our basic industries involved, it would appear that the ratio of benefits to costs must be carefully weighed if all the taxpayers of the State are to receive fair and just consideration.

The present Water Improvement Commission is an administrative body set up to function within the framework of existing law and its duties have been clear-

ly defined by the Legislature. It has carried out those duties in a proper and efficient manner within the limitations imposed by its legislative appropriation.

Inasmuch as the studies proposed under this resolve would constitute the basis for future legislation to be administered by the Water Improvement Commission it would seem logical that such studies be conducted by a representative group of citizens acting independently.