

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

FIRST SUMMARY REPORT
TO THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE
VOLUME ONE

JANUARY, 1971



STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
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January 1, 1971

To the Members of the 105th Legislature:

By statute the Legislative Research Committee is required to make or cause to be made such studies and investigations as the Legislature directs. In addition, the Committee is empowered to and has liberally exercised its own initiative by undertaking studies of matters pertaining to important issues of public policy and questions of state-wide interest. The Committee's ultimate objective is to assist the Legislature by submitting factual information pertinent to the questions involved along with such findings and recommendations for action or nonaction as the Committee deems desirable.

The Legislative Research Committee has inquired at great length and with serious purpose into those matters referred to it and hereby has the pleasure of submitting to you the first portion of its report on activities of the past two years. This report designated as Volume I deals with eight assigned topics and contains the findings and recommendations pursuant thereto. Reports relative to other matters ordered for study by action of the Legislature or undertaken by motion will appear in subsequent publications.

On behalf of the membership, I wish to express at this time our individual and collective appreciation to many individuals, organizations and persons in the service of the State whose assistance to the Committee in its studies and deliberations has made it possible to obtain information respecting the many problems confronting the Committee and without whose cooperation conclusions could not have been reached.

The members of the Committee also wish to express their appreciation for being chosen to participate in these assignments and sincerely hope the following reports will prove of benefit to the Members of the Legislature as well as the citizens of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William E. Dennett'.

WILLIAM E. DENNETT, Chairman
Legislative Research Committee

C O N T E N T S

	Page
Letter of Transmittal.....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Research Reports:	
State Personnel Laws.....	1
Municipal-State Revenue Sharing.....	23
Waterway Use for Logs and Pulpwood.....	28
Uniform Municipal Fiscal Year.....	56
Surficial Mining.....	67
Quality Rating of Gasoline.....	90
Environmental Regulation.....	96
Fuel Tax Reimbursement.....	101

STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

REPORT ON
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
to the
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

JANUARY, 1971
Legislative Research Committee
Publication 105-7

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Research Committee study the subject matter of the following Bills: "An Act Establishing the Environmental Advisory Commission," House Paper 1043, Legislative Document 1366, and "An Act Providing for Regional Referendum on Location of Industry Substantially Affecting Regional Environment", House Paper 1275, Legislative Document 1603, for the purpose of devising a practical means of controlling the location of industry which is capable by its location of being harmful to the area surrounding it; and be it further

ORDERED, that the State Environmental Improvement Commission and Department of Economic Development provide the Committee with such information and technical assistance as the Committee deems necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this Order; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Committee report the results of its findings and recommendations, including any necessary legislation, at the next regular session of the Legislature.

HP 1298	House of Representatives	In Senate Chamber
Rideout	Read and Passed	Read and Passed
Manchester	June 27, 1969	July 1, 1969
	Sent up for concurrence	In concurrence

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

CHAIRMAN - Robert E. Moore

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During the regular legislative session of 1969 the 104th Maine Legislature, by Joint Order, House Paper 1298, directed the Legislative Research Committee to study the subject matter of two bills "AN ACT Establishing the Environmental Advisory Commission," House Paper 1043, Legislative Document 1366 and "AN ACT Providing for Regional Referendum on Location of Industry Substantially Affecting Regional Environment," House Paper 1275, Legislative Document 1603, for the purpose of devising a practical means of controlling the location of industry which is capable by its location of being harmful to the surrounding area. The order further provided for the assistance of the Environmental Improvement Commission and Department of Economic Development in carrying out the purposes of the order.

As indicated by an emergency preamble attached to the latter proposal the 104th Legislature was suddenly faced with unprecedented industrial growth with particular possibilities imminent in the fields of mining, metallurgical processing, petroleum refining and oil storage and handling.

In the absence of adequate laws to control this type of industrial development, which due to haphazard location could be incompatible and detrimental to the natural resources and environment of the State, the foregoing legislation was offered and then failed for reasons of impracticality.

It should be noted that the sequence of events which followed, leading to the First Special Session of the 104th

Legislature, amounted to an all-out effort to arrive at workable laws which would curb pollution and preserve Maine's environmental quality.

Through the efforts of this and other committees working in conjunction with special committees of the Executive Branch of State Government and others concerned with the problem, practical solutions were found and passed in "AN ACT to Regulate Site Location of Development Substantially Affecting Environment", chapter 571, and "AN ACT Relating to Coastal Conveyance of Petroleum", chapter 572 of the public laws of 1969, both of which received national attention.

Along with this development the 104th Legislature authorized a comprehensive study and evaluation of the present organizational structure of the Environmental Improvement Commission.

For these reasons, the Committee concludes that further attention on its part is no longer required and submits this as its report to the 105th Legislature.