

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SUMMARY REPORT
TO THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

VOLUME ONE

JANUARY, 1973

STATE OF MAINE

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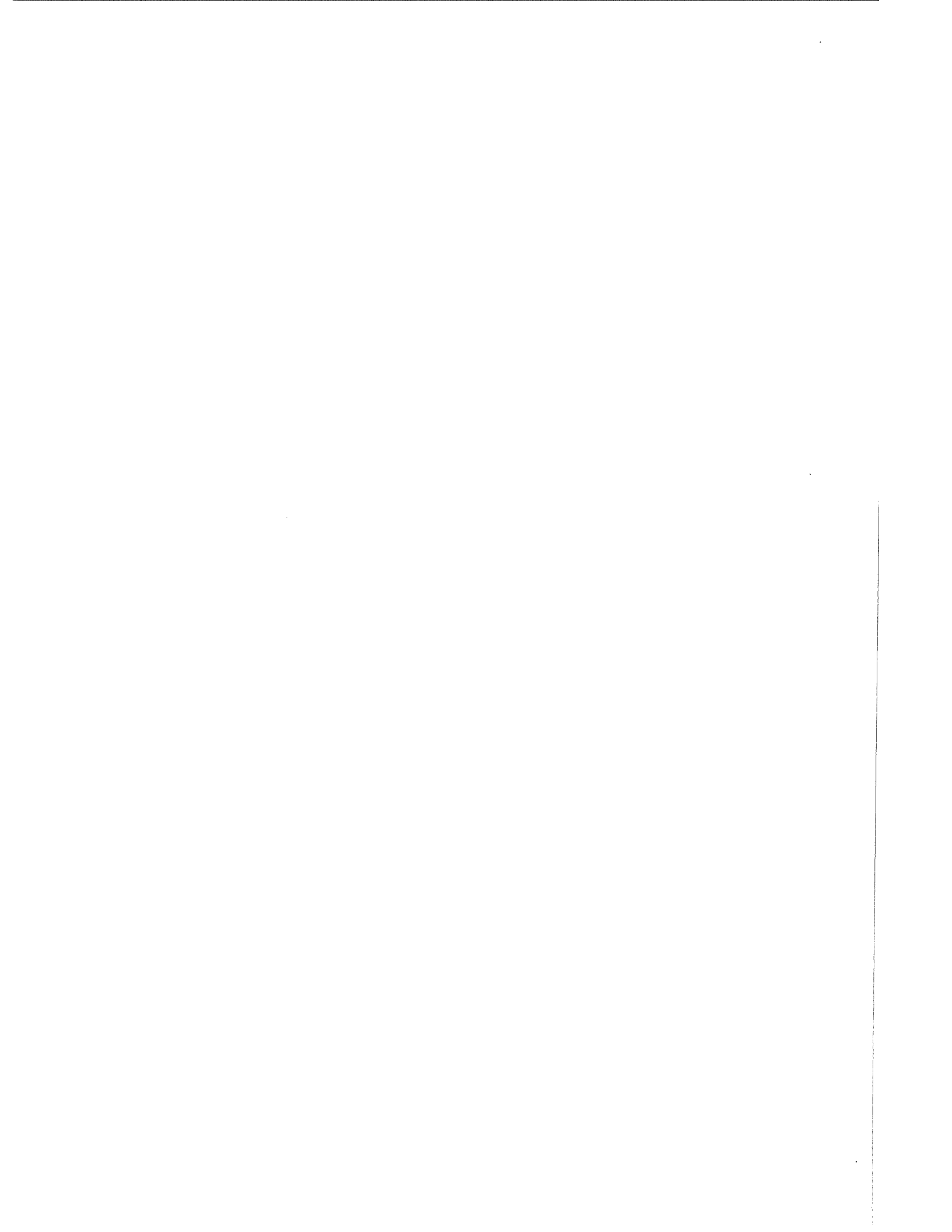
Assistant Director

David S. Silsby, Augusta

*Deceased

**Vice-Chairman, August 18, 1972

***Replaced Representative Gill



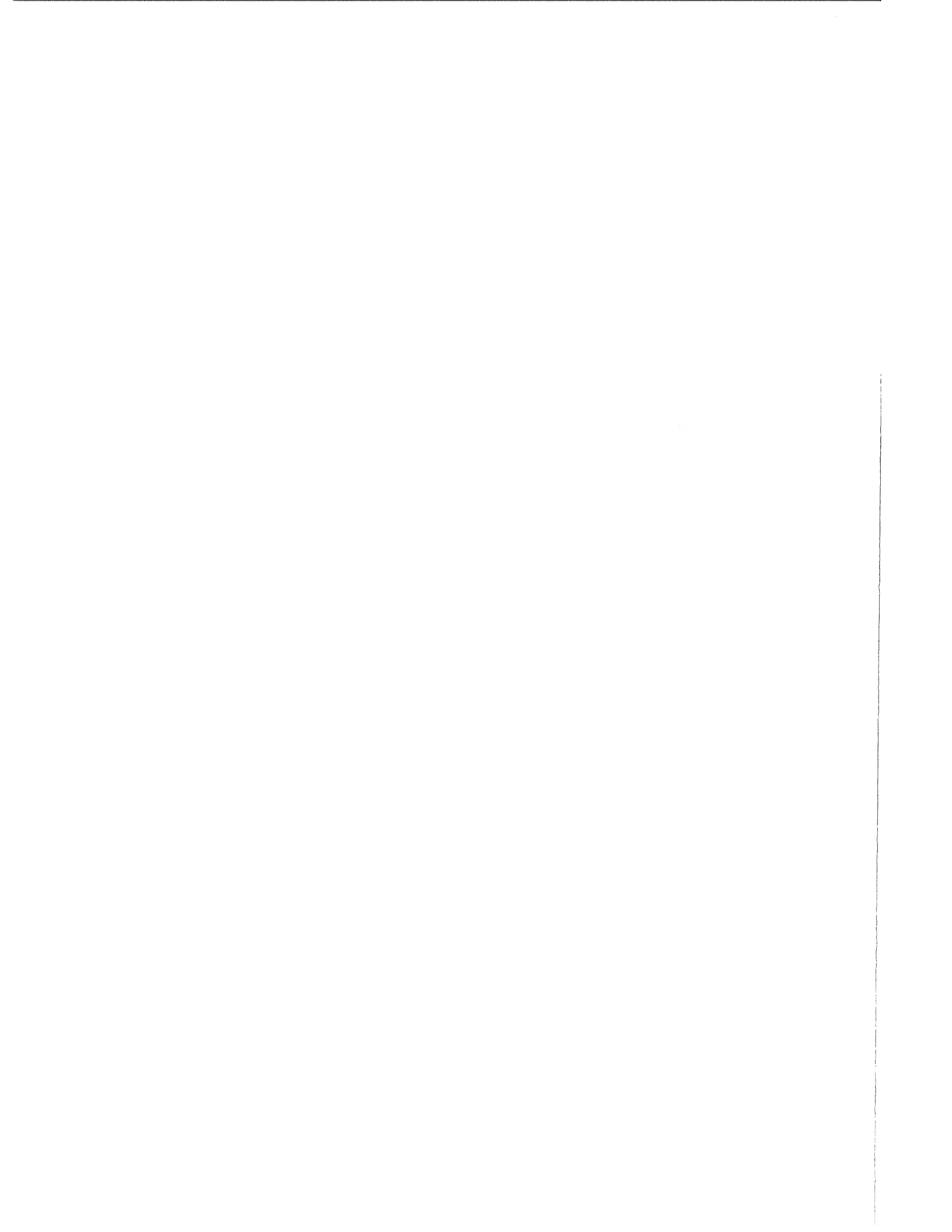
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STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
STATE HOUSE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

January 3, 1973

To the Members of the 106th Legislature:

The Legislative Research Committee hereby has the pleasure of submitting to you its report on activities for the past two years. This summary, designated as Volume I, deals with both assigned and unassigned studies and contains the findings and recommendations pursuant thereto.

The Committee was unfortunate in the loss of its original vice-chairman, the late Representative John E. Gill of South Portland. In his death on July 23, 1972, the State of Maine lost an able public servant. We of the Committee gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to his ability and his contribution to the work of the Committee.

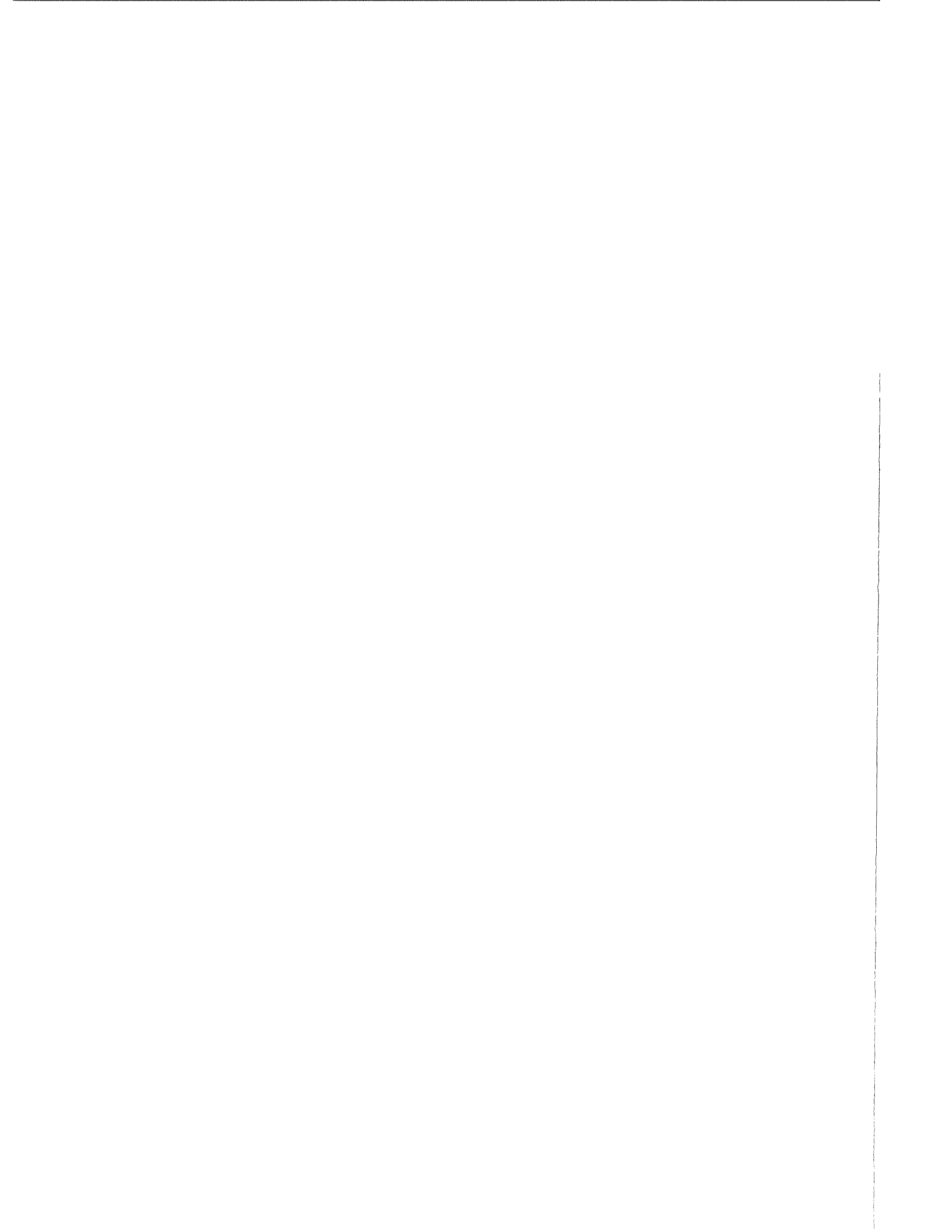
The Committee also wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the countless public and private individuals, organizations and agencies without whose assistance and cooperation the Committee would not have reached its conclusions.

The members of the Committee appreciate having been chosen to participate in this work and sincerely hope the results of many hours of work and devoted study transmitted here will prove beneficial to the members of the Legislature and ultimately to the citizens of the State of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Sewall".

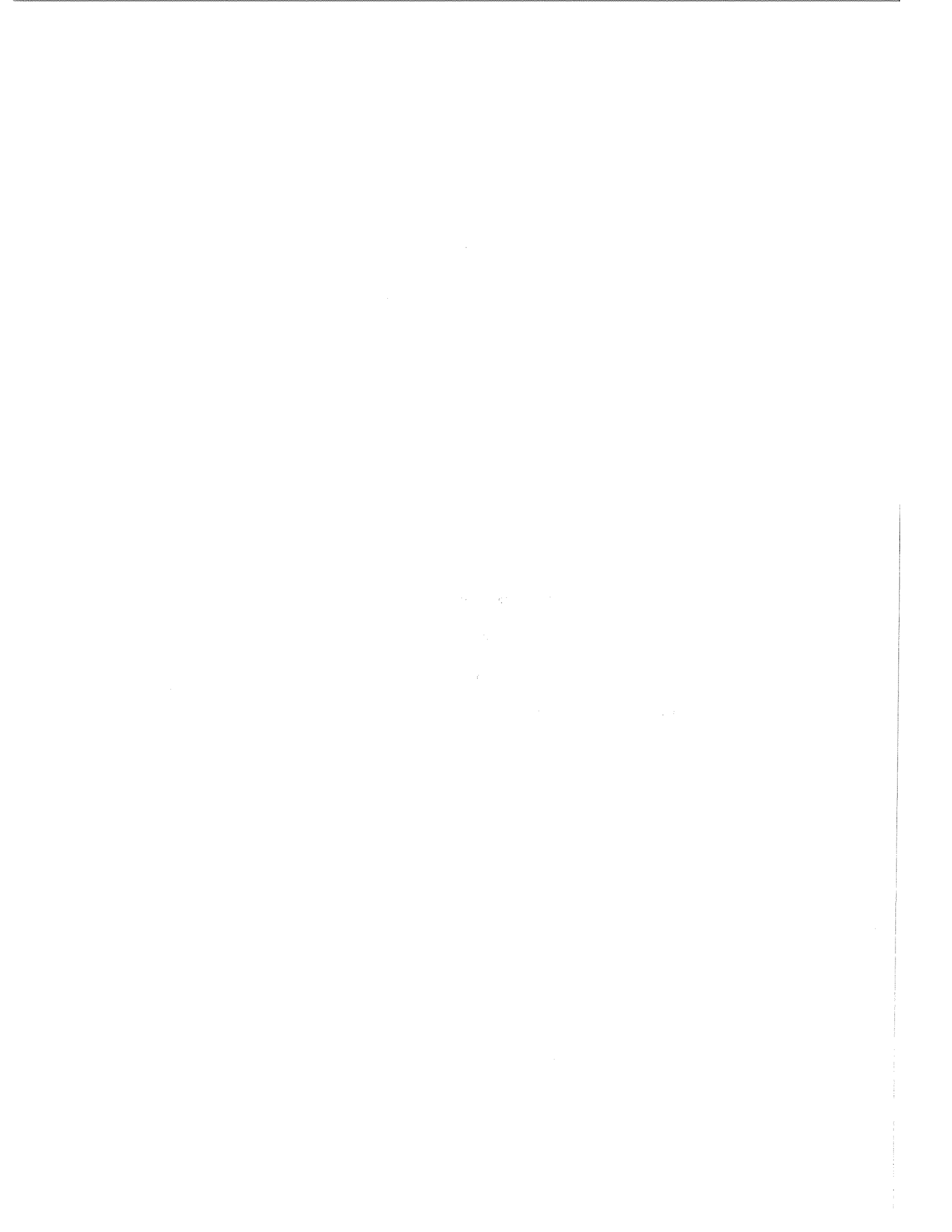
JOSEPH SEWALL, Chairman
Legislative Research Committee



STATE OF MAINE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

REPORT ON
ANIMAL WELFARE
to the
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

JANUARY, 1973
Legislative Research Committee
Publication 106-12



ANIMAL WELFARE

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Legislative Research Committee be, and hereby is, directed to study the subject matter of the bill, "An Act Relating to Animal Welfare," Senate Paper No. 705, Legislative Document No. 1886, introduced at the First Special Session of the 105th Legislature, to determine whether the best interests of the State would be served by the enactment of such legislation; and be it further

ORDERED, that the State Department of Agriculture be directed to provide the Committee with such technical advice and other assistance as the Committee feel necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Order; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Committee report its findings and recommendations at the next regular session of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that upon passage in concurrence, a copy of this Joint Order be transmitted forthwith to said department as notice of the pending study.

SP. 753	In Senate Chamber	House of Representatives
Johnson	Read and Passed	Read and Passed
Somerset	March 7, 1972	March 7, 1972
	Sent down for concurrence	In concurrence

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

CHAIRMAN - Guy A. Marcotte

VICE CHAIRMAN - Ronald S. Wight

Walter L. Bunker

Albert E. Cote

John A. Donaghy

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Legislative Research Committee has studied the subject matter of "An Act Relating to Animal Welfare," Senate Paper No. 705, Legislative Document No. 1886, which was introduced at the First Special Session of the 105th Legislature. Following reference of this Act to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature on State Government and their report that it be referred to the 106th Legislature, the Legislative Research Committee was directed to study the bill to determine whether or not the best wishes of the State would be served by the enactment of such legislation. The Department of Agriculture was also directed under the order to assist the Committee in this effort.

Essentially, the problem presented is, under existing law humane agents of this State, totaling approximately 28 to 30 in number, now operate independently and at county expense and lack the necessary organization, training and funds to properly deal with the humane treatment of animals. In this respect, legislation has been proposed as in the instant case to place humane agents on a more permanent basis at the state level where they could be properly trained, coordinated and systematically paid on a full-time basis, thereby resulting in more effective

administration and enforcement of Maine's animal welfare laws.

Legislative Document No. 1886, "An Act Relating to Animal Welfare," was advanced by the Department of Agriculture in response to a request of the Governor and purports to establish a Division of Animal Welfare within the Department of Agriculture to provide for more effective administration and enforcement of Maine's animal welfare laws by trained and qualified agents within the employ of the State. Under this document financing would no longer be an expense to the county as in the past but rather would be assumed by the State on a self-sustaining basis.

After hearing this matter publicly and having held numerous other meetings on the merits of this proposal the Committee reached the conclusion that it unanimously favors humane agents being under the control and supervision of the Department of Agriculture and the State assuming full financial responsibility.

It is important to point out in reaching this conclusion, that the Committee does not favor the financial burden being borne solely by dog owners through an increase in the dog tax as previously proposed in L.D. 1886. Further, neither does it feel all existing humane agents are necessary nor should be given full-time status.

Accordingly, the Committee has directed the Department of Agriculture, who was designated under the Order to assist the Committee, to prepare the necessary legislation to carry out its recommendations.