

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORT
To
THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE
By
Interim Joint Committee
102nd Legislature

January 1967

STATE OF MAINE

In Senate June 2, 1965

ORDERED, The House concurring, that there is created a Joint Interim Committee to consist of 5 Senators to be appointed by the President of the Senate and 5 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House to study the advisability of calling a constitutional convention or creating a constitutional commission to revise the Constitution of this State; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Committee shall report the results of its study to a special session of the 102nd Legislature or the 103rd Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the members of the Committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this Order; such sums to be paid out of the Legislative Appropriation; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Committee shall have the authority to employ professional and clerical assistance within the limits of funds provided; and be it further

ORDERED, that there is appropriated to the Committee from the Legislative Appropriation the sum of \$2,500 to carry out the purposes of this Order.

Name: (Stern)

County: Penobscot

Pursuant to the above Order, the following members were appointed by the President of the Senate -- Senators, Edward Stern, Elmer H. Violette, Carlton E. Mendell, Donald V. Carter, Richard C. Willey -- Representatives, W. Russell Edwards, Jr., John B. Cottrell, Victor J. Gauvin, Richard N. Berry, George D. Knight (Deceased), Alice M. Harvey (appointed to fill vacancy).

Representative Edwards and Senator Stern were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectfully by the members of the Committee. Two public hearings and several executive meetings were held during the interim and this report is herewith submitted with the unanimous approval of the Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee held a number of public hearings taking testimony, recommendations for various methods of revising the Constitution of the State of Maine.

Primary consideration was given to having a Constitutional Convention or creating a Constitutional Commission. It is the feeling of the committee that our State Constitution is basically a sound document. Testimony given indicated that Constitutional Commissions were not always effective inasmuch as they were usually formed outside of the Legislature. A Constitutional Convention, although apparently the most effective method of revising the Constitution, is extremely expensive and whereas our Constitution is reasonably sound there is no guarantee that we would come out with a better document.

It is still the feeling of the committee that some revision of our Constitution might be made after due study. Therefore, the committee recommends that a joint legislative study committee be created to study and recommend amendments to the Maine State Constitution and that this committee be granted ample funds to hire professional help or consultants if they so desire. It is also recommended that this committee be allowed to report as its work progresses or at the completion of its work, whichever the committee chooses.

/s/ W. Russell Edwards, Jr.
Chairman