

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942

OF THE

MAINE COMMISSION ON INTER-  
STATE COOPERATION

**MEMBERS OF THE MAINE COMMISSION ON  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION**

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HIS EXCELLENCY SUMNER SEWALL, *ex officio*  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE HORACE A. HILDRETH,  
*ex officio*  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE F. ARDINE RICHARDSON,  
*ex officio*

**STATE OFFICIALS**

DAVID H. STEVENS, Chairman  
HAROLD I. GOSS, Secretary  
FRANK E. SOUTHARD

**SENATE**

LAUREN M. SANBORN  
SIDNEY R. BATCHELDER  
RALPH W. FARRIS

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

BURTON M. CROSS  
JOSEPH T. SAYWARD  
FRANK L. BAKER

February 1, 1943

*To His Excellency, Governor Sumner Sewall:*

In compliance with a provision of section 6 of the act of its establishment, the Maine Commission on Interstate Coöperation submits to your Excellency this report.

In the hope that the report may be transmitted to the Legislature, certain information already within your Excellency's knowledge is given in the belief that it will be of interest, if not of value, to the members of the law-making bodies.

### **ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION**

The Commission was created by Chapter 250 of the Public Laws of 1939 which established a commission of nine regular members, namely: three state officials to be appointed by the Governor, three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; all of whom continue as members of the Commission as long as they continue without interruption to hold the office by virtue of which they are appointed. The Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House are *ex officio* members of the Commission.

As originally constituted, the Commission was made up of Hon. Frank H. Holley, State Tax Assessor; Hon. Frank E. Southard, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission; Hon. Frederick Robie, Secretary of State; Senators J. Frederic Burns of Aroostook, Robert A. Cony of Kennebec and Lauren M. Sanborn of Cumberland; and Representatives Joseph W. Larrabee of West Bath, Alton T. Maxim and S. Arthur Paul of Portland.

On the coming of the Legislature in 1941 Senators Burns and Cony not having been returned, their places were filled by Senators Sidney R. Batchelder of York and Ralph W. Farris of Kennebec; none of the House members having been returned, Speaker Varney designated Representatives Harold N. Hanold of Standish, Millard G. Otto of Dexter, and Joseph T. Sayward of Kennebunk to the Commission. During the biennium at a special election

held in Cumberland County, Representative Hanold was elected to the Senate and his place on the Commission has been filled by the appointment of Frank L. Baker of Scarborough. On the resignation of Mr. Holley as State Tax Assessor, his successor in that office, Honorable George E. Hill was named to the commission and on his vacating that office, Hon. David H. Stevens, the present State Tax Assessor, was placed on the Commission. On the retirement of Mr. Robie from the office of Secretary of State, his place was filled by the appointment of Hon. Harold I. Goss, the Acting Secretary of State.

The original Chairman of the Commission was Mr. Holley, he having been succeeded by action of the Commission by Messrs. Hill and Stevens in turn.

Secretary Robie was the original secretary of the Commission and his place has been filled by the Commission by the choice of Mr. Goss.

### **FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION**

It was only in comparatively recent years that the idea gained currency in many parts of the country that there were numerous subjects of interest common to the several states concerning which the states might with propriety and to their mutual advantage confer and take concerted action. The result was the creation in several states of boards or commissions authorized and directed to coöperate with similar commissions in other states in discussion of matters of common interest with the ultimate object of procuring either reciprocal or uniform legislation tending to promote their common interests and to obviate misunderstandings and disputes. The spread of the system was rapid and when in 1939, this commission was created, thirty-seven states had joined in the movement by establishing commissions on interstate coöperation. At the present time forty-four states are within the fold.

For the better carrying into effect of the purposes in view, there has been created by the commissions a subsidiary organization, The Council of State Governments, with a secretariat in Chicago and an eastern office in New York. It is the business of the Council to promote the coöperation sought by the states. This is accomplished by correspondence, through personal inter-

views had by its traveling representatives and in arranging for regional meetings to be attended by members of the various state commissions at which matters of interest to the particular group involved are discussed and steps taken for carrying into effect any plans which may there develop. The variety of subjects which engage the attention of these groups is great, among the more prominent of which may be mentioned the prevention of crime, the enforcement of criminal law, uniform legislation upon matters of common interest, the elimination of trade barriers among the states, fire protection and traffic problems.

In short, the Council of State Governments acts as a clearing house for submitting to the various states for their consideration any and all matters of common interest to two or more states which may be brought to its attention and undertake, through the coöperation of the state commissions concerned, to promote agreements or legislation which shall be to their mutual advantage.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

During the first two years of the existence of the Commission, due to lack of funds, the Commission was able to participate only slightly in regional conferences; however, in January 1941, Senator Farris and Representative Hanold attended a conference in Boston called for the principal purpose of considering a proposed compact to be entered into by the Atlantic Seaboard States providing for concerted action in the interest of the fisheries industry. This compact, as a result of this and other conferences, was finally presented to Congress for its approval since which it has been ratified by eleven of the seaboard states. It was ratified by the State of Maine at the Special Session in 1942 and appears as Chapter 314 of the Acts of the 90th Legislature. Article III of the compact provides for the constitution of a marine fisheries commission in which each of the contracting states is at present represented. The representatives from Maine are the Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries, Representative Frank L. Baker of this Commission, and Carroll Peacock of Lubec, Maine.

In April of 1941 Commissioner Southard attended a meeting in Boston where there were under discussion matters relating to the motor transportation problem and the fisheries industry as it concerned the seaboard states of New England and New York.

In January 1942 Senator Sanborn and Representative Hanold accompanied by Commissioner Rendall attended a conference of the northeastern states in Boston called for the purpose of giving consideration to problems relating to forestry and forest preservation. This subject is still very much alive particularly among the New England States.

Commissioner Southard attended a regional meeting in Washington May 5, 6 and 7, 1942, at which pretty nearly every interstate problem cognizable by the Council of State Governments was discussed. Of chief interest to Maine, however, was that of interstate motor transportation and the position of Maine was ably presented by Commissioner Southard. As a matter of fact, it is the judgment of this Commission that our present laws upon this subject places the state of Maine in substantial conformity with the standards of weight and length of commercial vehicles agreed upon by the states concerned and that little, if any, further legislation upon this subject is necessary.

A number of legislative enactments tending to bring the State of Maine into line with other states have either been proposed or sponsored by the Commission. Chapter 319 of the acts of the 90th Legislature passed at the Special Session fixing the legal length of lobsters is one of these. Anti-sabotage legislation which has been consistently urged by the Council of State Governments was included in Chapter 7 of the Laws of 1941 establishing the Maine State Guard. The Commission has coöperated with the Commission on Uniform State Laws in promoting the enactment of the Declaratory Judgment Act Chapter 223 of the Public Laws of 1941, of the Simultaneous Death Act Chapter 111 of the Public Laws of 1941, and the Uniform Narcotic Drug Act Chapter 251 of the Public Laws of 1941.

On January 15, 1943, the Sixth Eastern States Conservation Conference was held at the Hotel Statler in Boston, Massachusetts, with Hon. George Ward Stetson of Massachusetts presiding. The following members of the commission from Maine were present: David H. Stevens, Chairman, Maine Commission on Interstate Coöperation; Raymond E. Rendall, Forest Commissioner of Maine; Senator Ralph W. Farris of Augusta; Representative Burton M. Cross of Augusta, Frank L. Baker of Scarborough, and Joseph T. Sayward of Kennebunk. The first busi-

ness of the meeting was the reception of the report of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Problems, report of sub-committee No. 1 on Land Acquisition, report of sub-committee No. 2 on Public Regulation of Cutting on Private Forest Lands, report of sub-committee No. 3 on Forest Production, report of sub-committee No. 4 on Post War Forestry Program.

After the reports of these various committees were read, consideration of a proposed bill to regulate cutting on private forestry land was considered by the representatives from the twelve states and it was finally resolved that the conference go on record as adopting the proposal in principle and that each state delegation convey to their respective state Commissions on Interstate Cooperation the action taken at the conference, leaving to each state the task of working out a program for legislative action.

The Maine Commission on Interstate Coöperation held a meeting on January 21 at the State House and voted unanimously that it was the sense of the Commission that our forestry growth be conserved and recommended that the Forestry Department contact the land owners and timber land interests during the next two years and prepare a proposed bill which would meet with the approval of all concerned to be presented to the 92nd Maine Legislature in 1945.

The Commission is grateful for the help and assistance of Mr. Wayne D. Heydecker, Regional Representative of the Council of State Governments, and his attendance at our meetings here in Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) DAVID H. STEVENS,  
*Chairman*