

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

Report of the
Maine Commission on
Interstate Cooperation



FOR THE PERIOD

January 20, 1949 -- January 16, 1951

STATE OF MAINE

January 16, 1951

To His Excellency Frederick G. Payne
Governor of Maine:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 39 of Chapter 9 of the Revised Statutes of 1944, the Commission on Interstate Cooperation respectfully submits herewith its report for the period January 20, 1949, to January 16, 1951.

Respectfully submitted,

SEN. BURTON M. CROSS, *Chairman*
SEN. CLARENCE S. CROSBY
SEN. CLEVELAND SLEEPER
SEN. BRYANT HOPKINS
REP. WENDELL R. ATHERTON
REP. CHAUNCEY ROBBINS
REP. C. STANTON CARVILLE
FRANK E. SOUTHARD
DAVID H. STEVENS
HAROLD I. GOSS, *Secretary*

STATE OF MAINE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

as of January 16, 1951

Ex-officio Members

Frederick G. Payne, *Governor*
Burton M. Cross, *President of the Senate*
William S. Silsby, *Speaker of the House*

Senate Members

Clarence S. Crosby, Farmington
Cleveland Sleeper, Jr., Rockland
Arthur E. Ela, Anson

House Members

R. Chauncey Robbins, Houlton
C. Stanton Carville, Eustis
Roscoe J. Grover, Jr., Brewer

State Officials

Harold I. Goss, *Secretary of State*
Frank E. Southard, *Public Utilities Commission*
David H. Stevens, *Department of Health and Welfare*

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS OF THE
COMMISSION ON INTERSTATE COOPERATION
IN THE STATE OF MAINE**

Jan. 16, 1951

Legislative Members

Advisory Members

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Rep. R. Chauncey Robbins

Harry Umphrey, Washburn
Maine Aeronautics commission
Scott K. Higgins, Westbrook
*Director of Maine Aeronautics
Commission*

Agriculture

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Hon. A. K. Gardner
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Hon. Earl P. Osgood, *Chairman*
Milk Control Board

Crime Control and Law Enforcement

Senator Cleveland Sleeper, Jr.
Rep. Roscoe J. Grover, Jr.

Francis J. McCabe
Chief of State Police
Hon. Alexander A. LaFleur
Attorney-General

Highway and Motor Vehicle Problems

Senator Clarence Crosby
Rep. R. Chauncey Robbins

Hon. Lloyd Morton, *Chairman*
Maine Highway Commission
Hon. John Burnham
State Highway Department

Safety Education and Traffic Regulation

Senator Arthur E. Ela
Rep. C. Stanton Carville

John DeWinter, *Safety Director*
Maine State Police
Hon. Ralph Sawyer, *Traffic*
Engineer, State Highway Dept.

Highway and Bridge Program

Senator Clarence Crosby
Rep. C. Stanton Carville

Hon. Lewis Barrows, *Chief Engr.*
State Highway Department
Hon. Max L. Wilder
Chief Bridge Engineer

Uniform Highway and Motor Vehicle Legislation

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Hon. Harold I. Goss
Secretary of State
Hon. Stanton Weed, *Director of*
Motor Vehicles, Motor Vehicles
Department

Liquor Control

Senator Cleveland Sleeper
Rep. Roscoe J. Grover, Jr.

Hon. Bernard T. Zahn, *Chairman*
Maine State Liquor Com.
Timothy J. Murphy
Enforcement Director, Maine
State Liquor Commission

Social Welfare and Relief

Senator Arthur E. Ela
Rep. Roscoe J. Grover, Jr.

Hon. David H. Stevens
Commissioner of Health and
Welfare
Dr. Margaret Simpson
Director of Mental Health

Membership in Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Senator Cleveland Sleeper, Jr.

Hon. Richard Reed
Commissioner of Sea and Shore
Fisheries

**REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION OF INTERSTATE COOPERATION
for the Period January 20, 1949 to January 16, 1951**

This report covers a biennium of great importance to the state and federal governments. The Commission has worked constantly upon the fundamental purposes of cooperation between the states of this area and has sponsored and helped in the passage of three outstanding legislative acts at the 94th session of the Maine legislature. These three acts are:

1. The Interstate Forest Fire Compact, which is a reciprocal agreement between the states of New England and New York and relates to an exchange of fire fighting equipment and personnel in the event of forest fires in the area.

2. The act creating a Civil Defense agency and Public Safety Council. This act is unique in combining the necessary functions of civil defense and the machinery of handling natural disasters of every description, the same method being used for both. Our state was one of the first to meet the situation of civilian defense at the state level, and the act has received national recognition as being one of the best created in the 48 states.

3. Uniform Support of Dependents Law. This act is an interstate agreement granting reciprocity between the states which have passed the uniform act and relates to husbands who have left the state in an effort to evade their responsibilities as to non-support. The uniform act has been passed by a majority of the states as well as Maine and seems to be the solution to a major problem in our national economy.

The Commission is now working on a reciprocal agreement of mutual aid between the State of Maine, the Dominion of Canada and the other states in this area, to be used in the event of war or other disaster, based on the same theory as the Forest Fire Compact.

We have also sponsored and helped in the passage of several other bills to clarify our motor vehicle code and to better coordinate our traffic laws with those of other states on the eastern seaboard. Several more changes will be proposed at this session.

Regional meetings have been well attended by members of the Commission who have given freely of their time and energies to further the work of interstate cooperation.

Should the grave situation facing this state and others throughout the nation take a turn for the worse, this Commission will continue to work in solving the problems between the states with particular relation to civilian defense and other problems which will present themselves in time of war.

A water pollution and water control bill will be offered which will make a new approach to an old problem.

Much has been accomplished the past two years through the efforts of the members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission which is a sub-division of the Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

The members from Maine are Senator Cleveland Sleeper, Jr., Carroll Peacock of Lubec, Industry member, and Sea and Shore Fisheries Commissioner, Richard E. Reed, State Government member.

During the period from January 1, 1949, to December 31, 1949, Maine was represented at the annual meeting of the Commission in New York City on September 29th and 30th, and a Regional meeting in Boston on December 20th to 25th.

At the annual meeting discussions on lobster research and better management of the resource were held. This resulted in agreement among the producing states for a cooperative program along those lines. The Maine members also arrived at a decision at that time to recommend abolishment of lobster rearing work in the state, which was carried out at approximately a saving of \$10,000 a year to the taxpayers.

The decline of haddock off our coast was discussed and recommendations made to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for adoption of minimum size and extension of its research activities. To help cope with the problem of the declining clam supply, it was voted to seek funds from the United States Public Health Service to carry on an extensive pollution survey in an effort to open many closed areas. This money was obtained and the work is still going on.

The Maine group gave a full report on the Atlantic Salmon Restoration in this state, as well as research on herring and sea scallops.

The major topic of discussion was the International Treaty for the North West Atlantic and through the work of the Maine members it was made possible for Commissioner Richard E. Reed to be a member of the United States delegation at conferences in Washington, which resulted in the writing and subsequent adoption of the treaty.

The Boston meeting was called to discuss urgent interstate problems on clams and lobsters, resulting in a better working agreement between several of the states, which it is hoped will be extremely valuable to those phases of the Industry in the long run.

In February a representative of the Commission and the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries appeared at Congressional hearings in Washington in an effort to get greater tariff protection against the imports of foreign fresh and frozen fish.

At the annual meeting discussions were held on ways and means to take advantage of existing federal funds to further research in lobster marketing and conservation.

Recommendations for minimum size of ground fish were submitted to the industry and may eventually require legislative action in the interest of conservation. After considerable debate the full Commission endorsed the Maine proposal for a \$75,000 federal appropriation to help establish a tuna canning industry on the Maine coast. This resolution was promptly submitted to Congress and was an important factor in final procurement of the money. The project is due to get under way this spring.

Resolutions to Congress were presented with regard to the North West Atlantic Treaty, for the purpose of protecting the rights of states to supervise the fishery within their territorial waters.

At the Boston meeting on April 17th a further study of the minimum size requirements was worked out and necessary changes made. Discussions on lobsters and clams were held at the Boston meeting and recommendations worked out.

The emergency meeting in July was called because of events in Washington that threatened to violate states' rights in line with the pending legislation on the North West Atlantic Treaty. As a result of this meeting the various states formed a solid front and sent a committee to Washington to make our ideas and recommendations known to Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

BURTON M. CROSS, *Chairman*

**LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL
OF STATE GOVERNMENTS AND ADOPTED BY
THE NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

An Act Relating to Consent to Adoption of Children

An Act Relating to Aeronautical Fund

An Act Relating to Establishment of Civil Defense Agency and Public Safety Council

An Act Relating to Uniform Act on Interstate Arbitration of Death Taxes

An Act Relating to Interstate Compromise of Death Taxes

An Act Relating to Overtaking and Passing School Buses

An Act Relating to Pollution of Tidal Waters

An Act Relating to Proxies

An Act to Clarify Certain Provisions of the Motor Vehicle Law

Joint Resolution Protesting to Federal Government Relating to Federal Seizure of State Lands Beneath the Tidal Waters of the State

Amendment to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact

Interstate Forest Fire Compact

Uniform Support of Dependents Law

An Act Relating to Atlantic Sea Run Salmon