

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 9, 1952

To General Spaulding Bisbee, Director, Civil Defense  
Re: Authority to Administer Oaths

This memo refers to Information Bulletin No. 6 issued by the Office of Civil Defense, in which it is stated that the Director of Civil Defense of any State, or any subordinate Civil Defense officer within such State designated by the Director in writing, shall be qualified to administer any such oath within such State under such regulations as the Director shall prescribe.

You have asked us for a ruling relative to this amendment to the Civil Defense Act.

We believe that under this law it is proper for you to give the oath referred to and you may properly delegate the authority to give such oath.

In Maine, however, authority to administer an oath should be granted by statute. Our Civil Defense Act says that the oath in writing must be before a person authorized to administer oaths in this State. While this office believes you have authority to administer the oath, we strongly recommend that the Civil Defense Act be amended to include an authorization for the Director of Civil Defense or his delegated officer to administer the oath.

James G. Frost  
Deputy Attorney General

jgf/c