

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 21, 1956

To Scott K. Higgins, Director, Aeronautics  
Re: Portland Municipal Airport

We have your memo stating the view of the Maine Aeronautics Commission that eventually the State should own and run the Portland Municipal Airport. You ask advice as to the steps necessary in taking over this airport.

Under the provisions of Chapter 24, Section 12, subsection I, R.S. 1954, we believe that the legislature must grant the authority necessary for the purpose or other acquisition by the Aeronautics Commission of the existing facilities of the Portland Municipal Airport.

While you might be contemplating that a body such as an Airport Authority control such airport after acquisition by the State, we would point out that under our present law the Commission has the responsibility of supervising and controlling State airports (Chapter 24, Section 5, R.S. 1954) Thus it appears that, upon acquisition, your Commission would have ample authority to run such airport as a State airport.

For your information we refer you to Chapter 132, Resolves of 1935, which Resolve authorized the Governor and Council to negotiate a lease with the City of Augusta for property ultimately to be acquired by the State for an airport and the designation of such land by the legislature as a State airport. At that time the military department was to have control of the airport.

A statute similar in tenor to Chapter 132 should authorize the Commission to acquire the property you desire. We assume that negotiations will have to be carried on before any definite legislation could be recommended, but please be advised that we will render to the Director of Legislative Research whatever assistance he desires in drafting an appropriate act.

James Glynn Frost  
Deputy Attorney General

Jgf/c