

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Planning.

FACTS:

The 103rd Legislature has recessed without appropriating funds earmarked specifically for state planning. The 101st Legislature directed the Department of Economic Development Advisory Council (hereinafter called "the Council") to "develop a comprehensive, master economic plan for the State of Maine." Me. Private & Special Laws, 1965, ch. 187, § 1. (Emphasis added.) The appropriation to support the Advisory Council in this task lapsed on June 30, 1967. The Department of Economic Development wishes to know, in view of these facts, whether responsibility for such a plan has now reverted to its Division of Research and Planning (hereinafter called "the Division") in accordance with Me. Rev. Stat. Ann., Title 10, § 451 (1964), which in part provides that the Division shall be empowered to:

" . . .

"6. Prepare and from time to time revise and perfect a master plan for the physical development of the State. Such master plan . . . shall be designed with the general purpose of guiding and carrying forward . . . economic development of the State" (Emphasis supplied)

QUESTION:

In view of the 103rd Legislature's failure to appropriate funds for the Council's assigned task of developing a comprehensive master economic plan for the State of Maine, has the responsibility for such a plan reverted to the Division?

OPINION:

The language of Me. Rev. Stat. Ann., Title 10, § 451(6) (1964) has vested the Division with the master planning power, which power

includes economic planning. No responsibility for such planning has "reverted" to the Division, since it has had the initial power to so plan since the statute which created the Division became law.

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RGFJr./eh