

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

The Legislative Research Committee has joined with the Executive Department in a project aimed at preparing legislation for governmental reform and reorganization guided by the principles and procedures described below.

State Government Reorganization has for many years been a major concern and the subject of many studies. There can be little doubt that inefficiencies exist in the operation of State government because we have too many separate agencies carrying out related functions. At the present time the State of Maine has become a complex of over 200 units of government. Such a system is difficult to make responsible to elective officials and appointed heads and to the people who receive and pay for State services. It is important to continue a government reorganization program that will bring about the most effective operation of government services at the lowest feasible cost.

The goals of this effort are very simple: First, to identify all activities of State government where more effective service to the public would be aided by structural reorganization along functional lines; second, to review all State agencies to strengthen gubernatorial and executive responsibility wherever desirable; third, to consolidate related State functions within a reduced number of agencies; fourth, to improve the capability of the Legislature to formulate State policy and to review the performance of the Executive branch; and, fifth, to recommend, wherever possible, procedures to reduce administrative expense and proliferation and duplication of programs.

I am directing all State department and agency heads to continue their review and examination of State programs and to work actively toward the development of formal proposals for the statutory reorganization of Maine government. I am further directing agency heads to work actively with the Subcommittee on Governmental Operations of the Legislative Research Committee in the coming months to develop and examine these reorganization recommendations.

To initiate the program, most State agencies and activities are tentatively grouped under eleven functional categories for study purposes. These eleven categories are: (1) Social Services; (2) Commerce; (3) Educational and Cultural Affairs; (4) Manpower; (5) Consumer Protection; (6) Transportation; (7) Natural Resources; (8) Agriculture; (9) Executive; (10) Environmental Protection; and (11) Finance and Administration. The number of functional categories and the assignments of present governmental units within them would be subject to change based on information as the study progresses. Our ultimate goal is the preparation of suggested legislation to present to the 105th Legislature for its review and action which would include public hearings and full debate on all proposals. I am directing

eleven State administrative personnel to serve as Coordinators for reorganization studies and activities in each of the eleven functional areas. Dr. Dean Fisher will serve as Coordinator for the area of Social Services; Mr. James K. Keefe will serve as Coordinator for the area of Commerce; Mr. William Logan will serve as Coordinator for the area of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Mr. James C. Schoenthaler will serve as Coordinator for the area of Manpower; Mr. Frank Hogerty will serve as Coordinator for the area of Consumer Protection; Mr. David Stevens will serve as Coordinator for the area of Transportation; Mr. Rodney Scribner will serve as Coordinator for the area of Natural Resources; Mr. Maynard Dolloff will serve as Coordinator for the area of Agriculture; Mr. Allen Pease will serve as Coordinator for the Executive Department; Mr. William Adams will serve as Coordinator for the area of Environmental Protection; and Mr. Maurice Williams will serve as Coordinator for the area of Finance and Administration.

To develop the program plan with State agencies, I am designating the State Planning Office as overall coordinator for all staff work. The State Planning Office will work with the Subcommittee on Governmental Operations to prepare the report and its implementing legislation.

It is intended that preliminary recommendations will be completed by December 1, 1970, and that a report be made by the Legislative Research Committee to the 105th Legislature in January, 1971.