

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 1 - FY 72
DATE August 12, 1971

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

The Joint Select Special Committee on Governmental Reorganization chaired by Senator Harvey Johnson, joins the Governor's Office in issuing this Executive Order.

The regular session of the 105th Legislature has enacted several government reorganization measures to assure the more effective future administration of the entire range of state functions and activities.

Created are the consolidated departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Protection, Education and Cultural Resources, Environmental Protection, Finance and Administration, Human Services, Manpower Affairs, Military and Civil Defense, Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Transportation. In addition, reorganization legislation concerning the Office of the Secretary of State was also signed into law.

This legislation, however, is only a start toward reforming Maine's governmental structures to meet the demands of present times. Several State agencies were not included in the proposed system of government, and much work remains to be done in developing the internal structures of the consolidated departments. As enacted the reorganization bills contemplate the presentation of further legislation, completing the reorganization program, to a Special Session of the 105th Legislature early next year.

To meet the demands for further legislation, the Executive Department has joined with the Legislature to undertake additional research concerning the government reorganization program in this interim period. Toward this end, a special Legislative Order of June 24, 1971 established a Joint Select Special Committee of the Legislature to prepare such legislation, with the assistance of the several Commissioners, the Attorney General's Department, the Director of Legislative Research, the Legislative Finance Officer and the State Planning Office. This effort will involve all State agencies as the Select Committee has the authority to recommend additional transfers not provided in the enacted bills.

As the Executive Department wishes to insure the complete success of this project, I have designated persons as acting Commissioners of the newly consolidated departments. I am directing the acting Commissioners to prepare, in conjunction with the State Planning Office, reports concerning their consolidated departments to be submitted to the Select Legislative Committee at hearings to be held through the remainder of 1971. These reports shall contain proposed new organizational structures and additional agency transfers, budget and personnel information concerning the consolidated departments, and suggestions for cost reductions made possible as a result of government reorganization. These reports to the Select Committee will be used as the basis for final action by the Committee membership on the new departments and eventual drafting of necessary legislation by the Committee Counsel and other legal staff available to the Commissioners and the Select Committee.

In addition, I am directing all State department and agency heads to continue their review of present state programs and to work with the State Planning Office and other staff assisting the Select Legislative Committee in developing legislation to complete the reorganization of State agencies and services.

The 105th Legislature has performed a commendable service to the Maine people in enacting these initial steps toward government reorganization. To complete the program it is essential to have the full cooperation of all state officials and agency personnel in establishing the new administrative system.

Understanding the difficult problems that may be encountered, it is hoped that by January 1, 1972 legislation to complete reorganization should be prepared for submission to a Special Session of the 105th Legislature.



Kenneth M. Curtis
Governor of Maine