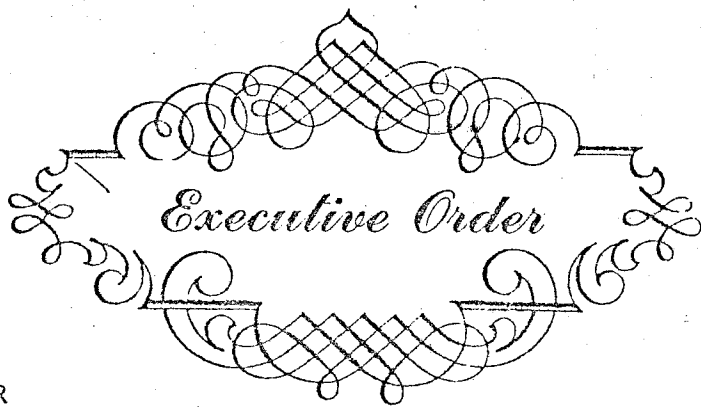


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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COMMISSIONER OF  
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 6 FY 77/78  
DATE October 17, 1977

TASK FORCE ON REGIONAL AND DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, in Maine there are twenty major departments and agencies which provide licensing and regulatory functions and direct services to people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, these departments and agencies provide such services in a range of sub-state divisions from one to thirty-eight and whose combined service areas exceed one hundred; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, federal agencies support some twelve different sub-state districts, including Regional Planning Commissions, Economic Development Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Agricultural Stabilization Districts, Community Action Agencies, Water Quality Management Districts, Air Pollution Control Districts, Areawide Health Planning Agencies, Regional Health Agencies, Law Enforcement Planning and Assistance Districts and Manpower Planning Districts; and

WHEREAS, M.R.S.A., Title 30, Section 4521 established eight planning and development districts serviced by eleven regional planning agencies for the purpose of encouraging federal, state and local comprehensive planning and coordinated development; and

WHEREAS, state and federal agency regional districts frequently do not coincide with the areas covered by Planning and Development districts; and

WHEREAS, in Maine there are sixteen counties and four hundred and ninety seven municipalities and several plantations offering a variety of services and functions; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary report of the Commission on Maine's Future has recommended that state and local governments be strengthened; and

WHEREAS, the governmental service delivery system is sometimes confusing, fragmented and uncoordinated and difficult for Maine residents to use and understand;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. LONGLEY, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby create a Task Force on Regional and District Organizations to be comprised of Maine citizens familiar with governmental service delivery systems, federal and state agency programs. The purpose of this Task Force is to recommend improvements in the planning, regulating and service functions at the regional and district level. Towards this purpose I request the Task Force to:

- (1) Inventory the governmental system in Maine in terms of sub-state service areas and service functions. Because of their unique services the inventory may exclude school administrative districts, school unions and regional technical vocational centers, sewer and water districts and other primarily municipal activities.

- (2) Evaluate existing state and federal administrative districts, counties and regional planning commissions and recommend desirable structural and functional changes to minimize overlapping of areas of jurisdiction and duplication of functions.
- (3) Define as clearly as possible those functions that should be administered at the state, municipal or sub-state level.
- (4) Recommend procedures and institutions whereby sub-state district functions will be responsive and accountable to the citizens within their jurisdiction.
- (5) Recommend those changes in structure and appropriate legislation that are consistent with the dual goals of improving the quality of services and reducing the cost of delivery.
- (6) Provide full opportunity for representatives of the involved agencies, counties, districts and others to provide information and other contributions to the study.
- (7) Operate as a fully independent policy recommending body to which all involved state agencies will assist as requested.

Primary staff and support services for the Task Force will be provided by the Maine State Planning Office.

The Task Force shall make its final recommendations by November 15, 1978 and remain organized to assist with the implementation of its recommendations until June 30, 1979. As members of the Task Force will serve as volunteers, they will not be eligible for per diem but will receive reimbursement for their necessary travel related expenses.

*James B. Longley*