

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1193**

S. P. 376

In Senate, February 16, 1965

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shiro of Kennebec.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-FIVE

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### **AN ACT Creating a State Commission on Registration and Voting Participation.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 21, c. 42, additional. Title 21 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 42, to read as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 42**

#### **COMMISSION ON REGISTRATION AND VOTING PARTICIPATION**

##### **§ 1681. Commission on Registration and Voting Participation**

There is established a bipartisan Commission on Registration and Voting Participation to consist of not more than 15 citizens of the State, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of 3 years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may be allowed actual and necessary expenses for attendance at all meetings. One of the members of the commission shall be designated by the Governor as the chairman. The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman and at least twice in each calendar year.

##### **§ 1682. Duties of commission**

The commission shall make a continuing study of the reasons for the failure of many citizens to register and vote in state and local elections, including laws which restrict registration and voting on the basis of residence, economic status or other reasons, procedures for registration of voters, absentee voting provisions, causes of nonvoting by persons who are otherwise qualified to vote and such other matters as will tend to promote better registration practices and voter participation in state and local elections.

**§ 1683. Commission staff**

The commission may employ, subject to the Personnel Law, an executive secretary and such staff as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

**§ 1684. Consultant services**

The commission may employ such expert and professional consultants, and contract for such research projects, as it deems necessary, within the limits of funds provided.

**§ 1685. Election officials to assist**

Each election official in the State shall furnish such documents, material or information as may be requested by the commission in carrying out its duties under this chapter.

**§ 1686. Report**

The commission shall report such recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature as it sees fit to make concerning improvements in the election laws of this State.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Commission on Registration and Voting Participation the sum of \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 and \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967.