

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1664

H. P. 1196

House of Representatives, January 17, 1966

The Committee on State Government suggested.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Edwards of Portland and Mr. Berry of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX

AN ACT Creating the Maine State Museum.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 27, c. 2, additional. Title 27 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 2 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2

STATE MUSEUM

§ 81. Declaration of policy

The Legislature declares it is the policy of the State that in order to further the cultural and educational interests of the people of the State, to present through the use of its collections, and activities the proud heritage and unique historical background, and to preserve and exhibit the environmental and cultural richness of the State, there is established the Maine State Museum.

§ 82. Maine State Museum Commission

The Governor shall appoint a Maine State Museum Commission consisting of 15 members especially qualified and interested in the several fields of museum activity. Of those members first appointed, 5 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years, 5 for 4 years and 5 for 6 years. Their successors shall be appointed for 6 years. Each member shall serve for the term of his appointment and thereafter until his successor is appointed and qualified. In case of the termination of a member's service during his term, the Governor shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term. Members shall serve without compensation but shall receive their necessary expenses.

§ 83. Powers and duties of Maine State Museum Commission

The general powers and duties of the commission are:

1. Administration. To administer this chapter. In administering its provisions, the commission may formulate policies and exercise general supervision.
2. Prescribe duties of Museum Director. To prescribe the duties of the Museum Director.
3. Delegate powers. To delegate powers to the Museum Director necessary for the administration of this chapter.
4. Recommendations. To make recommendations to the Legislature for such legislation as may be necessary to improve the functioning of the Maine State Museum.

§ 84. Museum Director

The Maine State Museum Commission shall appoint a Museum Director who shall be qualified by special training or experience in museum work. He shall hold office for a term of 6 years from the date of his appointment unless sooner removed for cause. The compensation of the Museum Director shall be fixed by the Maine State Museum Commission with the approval of the Governor.

§ 85. Powers and duties of Museum Director

The Museum Director shall have the powers and duties established under the following provisions governing the administration and operation of the Maine State Museum activities:

Administrative Provisions

1. Duties prescribed. To perform the duties which are prescribed for him by the commission.
2. Administration. To administer the office of Museum Director. In exercising his administration, the Museum Director shall promulgate operating policies, establish organizational and operational procedures, and exercise supervision of museum activities. He shall employ, subject to the Personnel Law, such assistants as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The Museum Director shall adopt a seal for use in the official business of the museum.
3. Rules and regulations. To promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. No unreasonable restrictions or limitations shall be imposed on the use of museum records or objects that are defined by law as records or objects open to public inspection.
4. Acceptance of gifts and bequests. To accept gifts, bequests and endowments for purposes consistent with the purposes of this chapter. Any funds, if given as an endowment, shall be invested by the Treasurer of State according to the laws governing the investment of trust funds. All gifts, bequests and proceeds of endowment funds shall be used solely to carry out the purposes for which they were made.

5. **Publication.** To publish museum materials, reports, bulletins and other publications which will promote the purposes of this chapter.

6. **Biennial report.** To report biennially to the Governor and Legislature facts and recommendations relating to the work and needs of his office.

Operational Provisions

1. **General.** To carry out the policies and directives of the Maine State Museum Commission.

2. **Collection.** To institute and maintain a program of systematic collection in the several fields of museum activity with particular emphasis on those fields relating to the State of Maine.

3. **Preservation and restoration.** To preserve, identify, catalogue, document and safeguard the collections of the museum.

4. **Research and publications.** To carry on research to increase knowledge in the several fields of museum activity and to provide interpretive and information services, including the dissemination and recording of information gathered through research.

5. **Information.** To provide reference services to individuals and to local historical, natural history, scientific and other groups and societies interested in museum activities.

6. **Exhibitions.** To exhibit the collections of the museum including permanent and temporary exhibits and to provide a loan service for films, artifacts, specimens and other exhibits of the museum to such persons, groups and schools and under such terms and conditions as determined by the director.

7. **Services.** To provide ancillary museum services such as operation of a museum library, consultation concerning museum activities, sale of publications, provisions of speakers, participation in special events, and any other activities which will promote the effectiveness of the museum.

§ 86. Acquisition, ownership and disposition of property

1. **Acquisition.** The Maine State Museum is authorized to accept donations of property for the sole use of the museum provided such donations are of a nature to carry out and promote the purposes of this chapter.

2. **Ownership.** The museum shall hold its collections and property for the State of Maine and shall not sell, mortgage, transfer or dispose of in any manner or remove from the Maine State Museum any article thereof, or part of same, without authority of law.

3. **Disposition.** Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of law, the museum may sell or exchange any duplicates or other property determined to be useless which the museum may have or obtain, and may transfer to other institutions of the State property not deemed applicable or necessary for the purposes of the museum.

4. **Property of existing museum to be transferred.** All property in possession or belonging to the present museum in the State Capitol shall upon the effective date of this Act, be transferred to the Maine State Museum.

§ 87. **Assistance from other state agencies**

The heads of the various state departments, agencies and institutions are authorized to consult with the Maine State Museum upon request concerning any aspect of museum operations.'

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 27, § 362, repealed. Section 362 of Title 27 of the Revised Statutes is repealed.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Maine State Museum Commission to carry out the purposes of this Act the sum of \$35,800 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967; the breakdown shall be as follows:

MAINE STATE MUSEUM COMMISSION		1966-67
Personal Services	(5)	\$29,300
All Other		6,500
		<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> \$35,800