

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1700

S. P. 667

In Senate, January 17, 1966

The Committee on State Government suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Snow of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX

AN ACT Establishing a State Commission on the Arts and the Humanities.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 27, c. 15, additional. Title 27 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding thereto a new chapter 15, to read as follows:

‘CHAPTER 15

THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

§ 401. Commission

There is created and established a State commission, to be known as the “Maine State Commission on the Arts and the Humanities,” to consist of not less than 15 nor more than 21 members, broadly representative of all artistic and cultural fields, to be appointed by the Governor from among citizens of Maine who are widely known for their competence and experience in connection with these fields. In making such appointments, due consideration shall be given to the recommendations made by representative civic, educational and professional associations and groups concerned with or engaged in artistic and cultural fields generally.

§ 402. Membership

The term of office of each member shall be 3 years; provided that of the members first appointed, 1/3 shall be appointed for terms of one year, 1/3 for terms of 2 years and 1/3 for terms of 3 years. Other than the chairman, no member of the commission who serves 2 full 3-year terms shall be eligible for reappointment during the one-year period following the expiration of his second

such term. The Governor shall designate a chairman and a vice-chairman from the members of the commission, to serve as such at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairman shall be the presiding officer of the commission. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. The members of the commission shall not receive any compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the commission.

§ 403. Director

The commission may employ, and at pleasure remove, a director.

§ 404. Duties

The duties of the commission shall be:

1. Encouragement. To take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage and stimulate public interest and participation in the cultural heritage and programs of our State and to expand the State's cultural resources; and

2. Freedom. To encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts; and

3. Surveys. To make such surveys as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions engaged within the State in artistic and cultural activities, including, but not limited to, music, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, history and allied studies and pursuits, and to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods of encouraging participation in and appreciation of the foregoing to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the State.

§ 405. Hearings; contracts

The commission is authorized and empowered to hold public and private hearings, to enter into contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with individuals, or organizations, and institutions for services furthering the educational objectives of the commission's programs; to enter into contracts, within the limit of funds available therefor, with local and regional associations for cooperative endeavors furthering the educational objectives of the commission's programs; to accept gifts, contributions and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations and other organizations or institutions for the purpose of furthering the educational objectives of the commission's programs; to make and sign any agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The commission may request and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the State such assistance and data as will enable it properly to carry out its powers and duties hereunder.

§ 406. Funds

The commission is the official agency of the State to receive and disburse any funds made available by the Federal Government for programs related to the purposes of the commission.

§ 407. Reports

The commission shall make a report to the Governor and the Legislature not later than January, 1967, and thereafter within 10 calendar days after the commencement of each regular session of the State Legislature.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Maine State Commission on the Arts and the Humanities the sum of \$12,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 and the sum of \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967 to carry out the purposes of this Act.