

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1628

H. P. 1178

House of Representatives, March 17, 1971

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carey of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to the Legislature's Right to Access
to Records of State Agencies.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 3, c. 19, additional. Title 3 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 19, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 19

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

§ 351. Legislative committees

Any joint legislative committee, including special interim legislative committees and the Legislative Research Committee, when properly authorized by joint legislative order or by statute, may require state departments, commissions, agencies or officials to produce documents, papers, objects or other writings and to testify with respect thereto without regard to the confidentiality thereof or the application of any confidentiality provision or statute thereto restricting the disclosure of information. Such documents, papers, objects or other writings and information obtained therefrom may be used only for the lawful purposes of the committee and in any actions arising out of investigations conducted by it. The committee shall make, in writing, all requests for such documents, papers, objects and other writings.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 10, § 852, amended. The 2nd paragraph of section 852 of Title 10 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 584 of the public laws of 1969, is repealed.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 36, § 2062, sub-§ 4, repealed. Subsection 4 of section 2062 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 584 of the public laws of 1969, is repealed.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 36, § 5340, sub-§ 4, amended. The 4th and 5th sentences of subsection 4 of section 5340 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 3 of chapter 584 of the public laws of 1969, are repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This provision would give authorized legislative committees access to so-called confidential information regardless of the applicability of any specific confidentiality statute and would restrict the use of the information to the lawful purposes of the committee.