

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Title)
New Draft of: H. P. 1111, L. D. 1516

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1766

H. P. 1347

House of Representatives, May 20, 1971

Reported by a Majority of the Committee on Business Legislation and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Providing for a Study of Whether Savings Banks Should Offer
Checking Accounts.**

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

Sec. 1. Legislative Research study. The Legislative Research Committee is authorized and directed to study whether savings banks should offer checking accounts and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof with fair competitive treatment to competing institutions and to determine whether the best interests of the State would be served by enactment of legislation in the area. The Department of Banks and Banking is directed to provide the committee with such technical advice and other assistance as the committee deems necessary or desirable to carry out such study. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations together with any implementing legislation to the next regular session of the Legislature. A copy hereof shall be transmitted forthwith to said Department of Banks and Banking as notice of the pending study.

Sec. 2. Moratorium. Nothing contained in the Revised Statutes, Title 9, Part 2 shall be construed as authorizing savings banks to offer checking accounts. This provision shall not apply to any savings bank presently in litigation on this issue and shall not be effective beyond 90 days after the adjournment of the next regular legislative session.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Prior to late 1970 no Maine savings bank had ever attempted to offer checking accounts. At that time an action was commenced to decide whether

it would be legally proper and the case is pending in the Supreme Judicial Court with decision expected after the adjournment of the Legislature. In addition, the Federal Hunt Commission is studying the advisability of such accounts with its report to Congress to be submitted in December, 1971. The purpose of this bill is to permit adequate study of this vital question as it affects the public, the savings banks and the commercial banks. The purpose of the moratorium is to maintain the status quo while the study is pending.