

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2458

H. P. 1926

House of Representatives, January 28, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Morton of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT Establishing a Commission on Maine's Future.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, c. 313, additional. Title 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 313 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 313

COMMISSION ON MAINE'S FUTURE

§ 3308. Commission on Maine's Future

There is created and established a Commission on Maine's Future, hereinafter in this chapter referred to as "the commission." It shall be the responsibility of the commission to recommend a desirable and feasible description of the State's future. The commission shall use the technical expertise of the State Planning Office to construct models and identify parameters to be used in determining the best long-range goals of the State from the possible alternatives. These findings shall be articulated into a working document. The commission shall meet at least twice annually.

§ 3309. Members of the commission

The Commission on Maine's Future shall consist of 40 members, 27 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor and who shall be apportioned among the planning and development districts, established by executive order, according to relative population shares, except that no district shall have fewer than 2 representatives. There shall be 13 ex officio members as

follows: The Director of the State Planning Office and 6 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate from the majority and minority parties in the Senate, approximately in proportion to their respective membership in the Senate and 6 Representatives from the majority and minority parties in the House, approximately in proportion to their respective membership in the House.

The Governor shall appoint the chairman of the commission from among the membership and the chairman shall serve at the Governor's pleasure. This chapter shall have a legislated lifetime until June 30, 1977 and all appointed members shall serve terms expired on that date. Any membership vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Governor.

§ 3310. Duties of the commission

The duties of the commission are to prepare for consideration by the Governor and the Legislature:

1. A proposed growth and development policy for the State of Maine;
2. Reports assembling relevant information regarding the future of the State;
3. An examination of long-range plans by state departments and agencies, including the University of Maine and an assessment of their possible impact on state growth and development;
4. Reports on the development implications of major state decisions;
5. An interim report on commission activities to be submitted not later than November 30, 1976;
6. A formal final report on commission activities to be submitted not later than June 30, 1977.

In the performance of the above duties, the commission may consult with citizen groups, farm, business and labor organizations and other agencies and organizations, including agencies of the Federal Government which are concerned with Maine's future. The commission shall be provided information, reports or other assistance from any agency, department, legislative committee or other instrumentality of the State, with the consent of the head of the respective organization. State agencies shall, on request, assist the commission in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take effect January 1, 1975.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act implements Management and Cost Survey recommendation No. 20, State Planning Office. A planning policy advisory commission is established to determine the long-range goals and desired future of the State of Maine. These goals will be chosen from alternatives developed by use of

technical models and will be articulated into a working document which shall be continually revised and perfected.

Recent planning experience demonstrates there is no convincing evidence that a detailed comprehensive plan prepared at the state level is a useful document as a total framework for the state-wide planning, in the absence of any concensus or knowledge of what the State should be in the future. Although the State Planning Office has identified through the State Comprehensive Policies Plan the goals and objectives of major state agencies, there is no clear concept or acceptance of the major objective: The best future for Maine.

The purpose of this Act is to assure that the future of Maine will be based upon chosen goals rather than upon a succession of immediate decisions.

Other state agencies will be expected to assist the commission in carrying out the purposes of this bill. Federal funds may be available to support the commission. In any case, no expenditures are contemplated in FY 74-75.

This bill was supported by the Governor in his Special Message to the Special Session of the 106th Legislature on January 10, 1974.