

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 97

S. P. 45

In Senate, January 7, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Require Public Hearings on Appointments of Commissioners  
and Department Heads.

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

5 MRSA, § 47, is enacted to read:

§ 47. Public hearings of commissioners and certain department heads

Whenever the Governor intends to appoint a commissioner under these statutes, whenever a commissioner intends to make any appointment under these statutes which is subject to approval by either the Governor or by the Governor and Council, he shall announce a public hearing on the appointment at a time and place convenient to the public. He shall make this announcement in the state paper at least 14 days in advance of the appointment, and the announcement shall contain the time and place of the hearing, the name of the intended appointee, the office he will hold and the duties of that office.

At the public hearing, the appointing official shall take written or oral testimony from the public, which shall be limited to relevant comments about the intended appointee. After the hearing, the appointing official shall summarize the testimony of the hearing and, if he so desires, append his comments on the hearing. Copies of the summarized testimony, together with any comments by the appointing official, shall be available at no cost and in reasonable number to the public prior to the effective date of the appointment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act will first require the Governor to inform the public about prospective commissioner appointments, and second will require commissioners to inform the public about some of their appointments, and it will enable the public to comment about those appointments at a public hearing.