

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 910

H. P. 736

House of Representatives, March 5, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Require that Magnetic Tape Recordings be Made of all Public
Deliberations of Appointive Boards and Commissions.

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

1 MRSA § 405-A is enacted to read:

§ 405-A. Meetings of appointive boards and commissions to be taped

Every deliberation of any appointive board or commission operating under the statutes of this State shall be recorded upon magnetic tape by sound recording device so that those deliberations can be replayed. The magnetic tapes of each deliberation shall be preserved for a period of at least 6 months after that deliberation and shall be made available during that period to the public for replaying. This section shall not be interpreted to require the transcription of any deliberation recorded on magnetic tape. This section shall not apply to any deliberation which takes place during executive sessions held under the authority of section 404.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Many appointive boards and commissions do not keep detailed minutes of their deliberations, often because of the high cost of transcribing those deliberations. This Act provides that those boards and commissions must make magnetic tape recordings of all deliberations and must make those recordings available to the public for replaying for at least 6 months after they are made. This method of transcription provides for an accurate, inexpensive method of keeping a public record of all public deliberations without a great deal of trouble on the part of any appointive agency or commission.