

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1020

S. P. 294

In Senate, March 12, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Establish the Office of Canadian Relations.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 15, c. 351, is enacted to read:

PART 15

CANADIAN RELATIONS

CHAPTER 351

CANADIAN RELATIONS ACT

§ 6001. Title

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Canadian Relations Act."

§ 6002. Policy and purpose

The Legislature finds that there exists among Maine and its neighboring Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, a broad range of shared experience, cultural traditions, social and economic conditions and common goals, including shared recognition of the urgent need to strengthen human services, to effectively use and conserve our natural resources and to pursue economic development within a framework of responsible environmental regulation.

The Legislature further finds that Maine enjoys with these provinces an increasing level of cooperation, commerce and other interaction as the oppor-

tunities and need for such interaction are increasingly recognized by both public and private officials.

The Legislature declare that it attaches the highest importance to the pursuit of common goals and to the further strengthening of relations in all areas among Maine and the Canadian Provinces.

The Legislature further declares that the multiplicity and complexity of such relations calls for direction and coordination by the Executive Department.

§ 6003. Office of Canadian Relations

There is established an Office of Canadian Relations which shall be concerned with the coordination of relations among officials of the State of Maine and officials of Canada at federal and provincial levels and shall assist in coordinating socio-economic and cultural relations and programs among Maine and the Canadian Provinces. The Office of Canadian Relations shall be responsible to the Governor.

§ 6004. Director of Canadian Relations

The executive head of the Office of Canadian Relations shall be the director, who shall be appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure. The director shall be paid a salary fixed by the Governor.

§ 6005. Powers and duties

The Office of Canadian Relations shall :

1. Study and evaluate existing activities. Study and evaluate existing activities in the State on both the governmental and private levels involving cooperation with Canada, and particularly with the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ;
2. Strengthen regional cooperation. Strengthen all areas of regional cooperation with Canada and give coordination and direction to related activities of state departments and agencies ;
3. Determine new areas for cooperation. Determine new areas for fruitful regional cooperation with particular attention to the potential for social betterment, economic growth, improved natural resource utilization and management and the enhancement of the environment ;
4. Encourage exchanges. Encourage and assist economic, governmental, cultural and educational exchanges and other modes of improved contact with Canada ;
5. Disseminate information. Disseminate information on Canadian relations to the public ;
6. Administer certain funds. Administer such funds as may be available to it for the purposes of assisting in the development of improved relations and cooperation between Maine and Canada.

§ 6006. **Advisory Committee on Canadian Relations**

There is established the **Maine Advisory Committee on Canadian Relations**. The committee shall consist of 12 members appointed by the **Governor**. The **Governor** shall initially appoint 6 members to a term of one year and 6 members to a term of 2 years. Upon the expiration of the initial terms, all appointments shall be for a term of 2 years. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, the vacancy for the remainder of his term shall be filled by appointment by the **Governor**. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. The duties of this committee shall be determined by the **Director of the Office of Canadian Relations**.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department the sum of \$38,500 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT	
Office of Canadian Relations	
Personal Services	\$20,000
All Other	18,500

(\$15,000 of the funds appropriated shall be used to assist projects in which the office may be involved)	
Total	\$38,500

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will provide for the continuance of the **Office of Canadian Relations** established by Executive Order under **Governor Kenneth M. Curtis**. The **Office of Canadian Relations** assisted in strengthening existing ties between Maine and the Canadian Provinces and has assisted in developing further cooperation in many areas. The appropriation provides for the salaries of the executive director and a secretary, and for the operating expenses of the **Office of Canadian Relations**. There is funding for a small grant-in-aid program to assist projects in which the office may be involved.