

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1175

H. P. 931

House of Representatives, March 20, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Cooney of Sabattus, referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Peterson of Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Create a Full-time Board of Environmental Protection.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA § 361, first, 2nd and 3rd ¶¶, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 618, § 9 are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The Board of Environmental Protection, as heretofore established and hereinafter in this subchapter called the "board," shall consist of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection ex officio, and 4 other persons appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. Members of the board shall be chosen to represent the broadest possible interest and experience which can be brought to bear in the implementation of this Title and all other laws which the board is charged with the duty of administering. Members shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and until their successors are appointed and duly qualified. However, upon the first appointment of members under this section, such members, other than the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall choose by lot terms of one, 2, 3 and 4 years, respectively. Any vacancy occurring in the board shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term in which such vacancy occurs.

Members, other than the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall be compensated at a salary of not to exceed \$20,000. Members shall receive actual expenses when travelling on official business.

Meetings of the board shall be held in public at times and places determined by the board. The board shall in October of each year elect a secretary who need not be chosen from among the members of the board. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum, except for the purposes of conducting any hearing.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$140,000 for the biennium to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$60,000	\$80,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will provide for needed reform in the composition of the Board of Environmental Protection by abolishing the present 10-member board and establishing a 5-member full-time board with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection as chairman. All categories of special interest representation are abolished and replaced by requirements relating to the broadest possible experience and expertise in environmental issues. This bill will reduce present processing delays and thus reduce costs to those planning developments in Maine necessitating board review. At the same time, this bill will improve the efficiency and thoroughness of environmental review of projects.