

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1377

S. P. 429

In Senate, April 1, 1975

Reported by Senator Wyman of Washington from the Committee on State Government and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Require Public Hearings on the Appointments
of Departmental Commissioners.

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

5 MRSA § 47 is enacted to read:

§ 47. Public hearings on appointment of departmental commissioners

Whenever the Governor nominates a person to be the commissioner of a department under these statutes, other than the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Adjutant General, the Executive Council shall hold a public hearing on the nominee prior to giving its advice and consent to the Governor, as required by the Constitution. The hearing shall be held at least 7 days prior to the appointment at a time and place convenient to the public. Notice of the hearing shall be made in the state paper at least 7 days before the hearing. The notice 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 hearing, the Executive Council shall take written or oral testimony from the public, which shall be limited to relevant comments and questions regarding the qualifications of the nominee to hold the office concerned.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will require the Governor and the Executive Council to inform the public about the prospective appointments of departmental commissioners and will enable the public to comment on these appointments at a public hearing.