

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1604

S. P. 470

In Senate, April 8, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Reeves of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide for Election of Commissioners to the Public Utilities Commission.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1395, sub-§ 2-A, is enacted to read:

2-A. Corporation expenditures for or against Public Utilities Commission candidates prohibited. No corporation shall make any expenditures for or against a candidate for election to the Public Utilities Commission.

Sec. 2. 35 MRSA § 1, first 3 sentences, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 687, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The Public Utilities Commission, as heretofore established, shall consist of 3 members each of whom shall be elected for a term of 6 years, which term shall commence on the first Wednesday of January, except that of those first elected, the person receiving the most votes shall serve for 6 years, the person receiving the 2nd largest number of votes shall serve for 4 years and the person receiving the 3rd largest number of votes shall serve for 2 years. Thereafter, one commissioner shall be elected at each general election. Every candidate shall, at the time of filing his primary petition or nomination petition, file with the Secretary of State a financial statement which shall contain a detailed statement of his income for the preceding calendar year specifying all sources of such income and a detailed list of all of his assets and liabilities and their sources. Every commissioner shall, on January 1st of each year, file with the Secretary of State a financial statement containing the above-specified information. Every such financial statement shall be personally signed and under oath of the candidate and commissioner and

on a form to be prescribed by the Secretary of State. The commission shall annually during January elect one of its numbers as chairman.

Sec. 3. Effective date. All parts of this Act shall be effective January 1, 1976, except that the repeal of the first 3 sentences of Title 35, section 1, shall not be effective until the first Wednesday of January, 1977.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for general election of the Public Utilities Commissioners, to require the candidates for such office and the commissioners to file financial statements and to prohibit corporations from making expenditures for or against such candidates.