

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 171**

H. P. 134

House of Representatives, January 27, 1977

Speaker laid before the House and referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jensen of Portland.

Cosponsor: Garsoe of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Concerning the Membership of the Standardization Committee.**

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

5 MRSA § 1814, as last amended by PL 1969, c. 300, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1814. Standardization Committee

A Standardization Committee, as heretofore established, shall consist of the Governor or his representative, 4 public members and 2 department or agency heads or their representatives as may be designated by the Governor. The 4 public members and the department or agency heads or their representatives shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The 4 public members shall be representative of the industry, commerce and political subdivisions of Maine, and shall not be officials or employees of the State.

The Governor or his representative and the appointed department or agency heads or their representatives shall serve on the Standardization Committee without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with such service. The 4 public members shall be paid the necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, and in addition thereto, they shall each receive \$25 per day for attendance at committee meetings.

A majority of the members shall elect a recording secretary of the Standardization Committee, who shall maintain a complete record of the minutes of every committee meeting. Upon the request of the committee, the State Purchasing Agent shall furnish the committee reasonable secretarial support.

The committee shall meet at least semiannually and at such other times as the Commissioner of Finance and Administration may request or at such other times as may be deemed necessary by at least 3 members of the committee. Committee meetings shall be held at such locations as may be agreed upon by a majority of the members of the committee.

The per diem allowance and the expenses of the public members and the expenses of the Governor or his representative, and the designated department or agency heads or their representatives, for attendance at committee meetings, shall be paid from the appropriation of the State Bureau of Purchases.

It shall be the duty of the Standardization Committee to advise the State Purchasing Agent and the Commissioner of Finance and Administration in the formulation, adoption and modification of the rules and regulations which shall prescribe the purchasing policy of the State and to assist the State Purchasing Agent in the formulation, adoption and modification of the specifications as may be deemed necessary for the procurement of services, supplies, materials and equipment required for use by the State or any department or agency thereof.

In addition, whenever the State Purchasing Agent, after having received bids on a contract, awards the contract to anyone other than the lowest responsible bidder, the Standardization Committee shall, after investigation, summarize the reasons for that award in a written report. That report shall be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Department of Finance and Administration during normal business hours.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill removes the State Purchasing Agent from the Standardization Committee in order to avoid any possible conflict of interest and provides for a majority of nonstate employees on the committee. It further requires the committee to investigate any award on a bid for contract to anyone other than the lowest bidder, and further requires the committee to set forth the reasons for this type of award in a written report which will be available for public inspection.