

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 299**

H. P. 236

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Henderson of Bangor.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Improve the Viability and Efficiency of Local Conservation  
Commissions.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 30 MRSA § 3851, first 2 sentences, as repealed and replaced by PL 1969, c. 394, § 3-A, are repealed and the following enacted in their places:

Municipalities may establish conservation commissions. The municipal officers may appoint not less than 3, nor more than 7 conservation commissioners. The terms of office initially shall be one, 2 and 3 years, such that the terms of approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the members shall expire each year, or until the appointment of their successors, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years each.

**Sec. 2.** 30 MRSA § 3851, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 544, § 106, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph to read:

The commission may recommend to the municipal officers the appointment of associate members to assist the commission as the commission may from time to time require. Such associate members shall be nonvoting members. The terms of office shall be for one, 2 or 3 years.

STATEMENT OF FACT

These changes are to improve the viability and efficiency of local conservation commissions. Paragraph one reduces the term of commission members

from 5 to 3 years because experience with the present law has indicated that many people are unwilling to accept the longer term appointment. The terms are staggered in order to provide for continuity of membership. The size of a given commission is made variable, at local discretion, in order to accommodate the needs of communities of various sizes.

Paragraph 2 clarifies the status of the present practice of having nonmembers assist the commission generally or on specific projects.