

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1221**

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S. P. 371

In Senate, March 29, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Collins of Aroostook.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT** to Strengthen the Representative Form of State Government and  
to Improve the Legislative Process.

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

3 MRSA § 5 is enacted to read:

§ 5. Legislative intent

It is declared to be the intent of the Legislature that the legislative department only shall originate policy and enact programs, including State programs funded through federal mandates.

To this end the Legislature shall annually review existing programs for continuation, revision or deletion and require the presentation of proposed programs in a final form which demonstrates costs and benefits. Legislative determinations to continue, revise or delete programs shall be introduced in bill form.

The format of legislation proposing new programs shall be determined by the Legislative Council. It is the intent of the Legislature that the format be divided to the greatest extent possible by subject or interest area according to existing joint standing committee structure.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In recent years State Government has in practice weakened the representative form of government in favor of an administrative-bureaucratic form

which is in fact federally, rather than state controlled. In view of the great need to strengthen the balance and separation of powers in our political system, this bill seeks to achieve that strengthening by setting forth a means to fortify the legislative process.