

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1346

H. P. 1127

House of Representatives, March 29, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Henderson of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Provide for Annual State Budgeting.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 1581, is amended to read:

§ 1581. Form of appropriation bill

The general fund appropriation bill provided for in section 1664 shall be drawn so as to authorize the appropriation to be made to each department or agency of the State Government for ~~each one~~ fiscal year ~~of the biennium~~. Such appropriation shall provide specific amounts for personal services, capital expenditures and amounts for all other departmental expenses. Appropriations for the acquisition of property shall be in such detail under each department or agency as the Governor-elect or the Governor shall determine. Such appropriations shall not be segregated in greater detail than the major classes or projects for which they are expendable during ~~each~~ that fiscal year ~~of the biennium~~.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA § 1662, sub-§ 1 is amended to read:

1. **State budget document.** To prepare and submit to the Governor-elect, or the Governor, ~~biennially~~ annually, a state budget document in accordance with chapters 141 to 155;

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA § 1663 is amended to read:

The budget of the State Government shall present a complete financial plan for ~~each fiscal year of~~ the ensuing ~~biennium~~ fiscal year. It shall set forth all proposed expenditures for the administration, operation and main-

tenance of the departments and agencies of the State Government; all interest and debt redemption charges during ~~each that~~ fiscal year and all expenditures for capital projects to be undertaken and executed during ~~each that~~ fiscal year ~~of the biennium~~. In addition thereto, the state budget shall set forth the anticipated revenues of the State Government and any other additional means of financing expenditures proposed for ~~each that~~ fiscal year ~~of the biennium~~.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA § 1664, 1st and 2nd ¶¶'s are amended to read:

The state budget document, setting forth a financial plan for the State Government for ~~each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium~~ fiscal year, shall be set up in 3 parts, the nature and contents of which shall be as follows:

Part 1 shall consist of a budget message by the Governor-elect, or the Governor, which shall outline the financial policy of the State Government for the ensuing ~~biennium~~ fiscal year, describing in connection therewith the important features of the financial plan. It shall embrace a general budget summary setting forth the aggregate figures of the budget in such manner as to show the balanced relations between the total proposed expenditures and the total anticipated revenues together with the other means of financing the budget for ~~each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium~~ fiscal year, contrasted with the corresponding figures for the last completed fiscal year and the fiscal year in progress. The general budget summary shall be supported by explanatory schedules or statements, classifying the expenditures contained therein by organization units, objects and funds, and the income by organization units, sources and funds.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA § 1664, 4th ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 515, is amended to read:

Part 3 shall embrace complete drafts or summaries of the budget bills, the **legislative measures required to give legal sanction** to the financial plan when adopted by the Legislature. These bills shall include General Fund appropriation bills and allocation bills for the following: Highway Fund, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Fund, Federal Revenue Sharing Fund, Coastal Protection Fund and for the administrative expenses of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and the State Liquor Commission, authorizing expenditures for ~~each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium~~ fiscal year and such other bills as may be required to provide the income necessary to finance the budget.

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA § 1665, 1st sentence is amended to read:

On or before September 1st of ~~the even numbered years~~ each year, all departments and other agencies of the State Government and corporations and associations receiving or desiring to receive state funds under the provisions of law shall prepare, in the manner prescribed by and on blanks furnished them by the State Budget Officer, and submit to said officer estimates of their expenditure and appropriation requirements for ~~each fiscal year of the ensuing biennium~~ fiscal year, contrasted with the corresponding figures of the last completed fiscal year and the estimated figures for the current fiscal year.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA § 1665, 2nd ¶, 1st sentence is amended to read:

Tentative revenue estimates prepared by the State Budget Officer during the month of September of ~~the even numbered years~~ **each year** shall be revised by this officer during the following November for inclusion in the budget.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA § 1666, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 732, is amended to read:

§ 1666. Review and revision of estimates

The Governor-elect or the Governor, with the assistance of the State Budget Officer, shall review the budget estimates, altering, revising, increasing or decreasing the items of said estimates as may be deemed necessary in view of the needs of the various departments and agencies and the total anticipated income of the State Government during the ensuing ~~biennium~~ **fiscal year**. Such review shall cover all budgets regardless of source of funds, including, but not limited to, budgets related to the Highway Fund, the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund, and other special revenue funds. The State Budget Officer, at the direction of the Governor-elect or the Governor shall then prepare a state budget document in the form required by law. The Governor-elect or the Governor shall be fully responsible for all budgetary recommendations made to the Legislature. The Governor shall transmit said budget document to the Legislature not later than the close of the 2nd week of ~~the each~~ regular legislative session. A Governor-elect to his first term of office shall transmit said budget document to the Legislature not later than the close of the 6th week of the first regular legislative session.

STATEMENT OF FACT

With the advent of annual regular sessions, the Legislature is in a position to give annual consideration to the finances of the State. This bill provides that state budgets shall be submitted to the Legislature and approved by the Legislature on an annual basis, instead of the current biennial basis.