

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1512

S. P. 434

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

In Senate, April 12, 1977

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Levine of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Create an Advisory Board to the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Development Office.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 363 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 363

STATE ADVISORY BOARD FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND STATE DEVELOPMENT

§ 7011. Finding and purpose

The Legislature finds that economic development is impeded and discouraged in this State by the failure to adequately provide the public with timely, accurate, comprehensive information on state laws affecting development and financial and technical assistance available. The purpose of this chapter is to provide an advisory board which will develop procedures and information systems for the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Development Office. The procedures and information systems shall be designed to provide the public with all necessary and available information from these departments that the public needs in order to make prompt determinations of the permits necessary, the time for processing applications for permits and the technical and financial assistance available. In addition, this advisory board shall advise the Board of Environmental Protection on the economic effects of developments.

§ 7012. State Advisory Board for Environmental Protection and State Development

There is created the "State Advisory Board for Environmental Protection and State Development" which shall advise the Legislature, the Governor, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Director of the State Development Office on policies and procedures which will encourage economic development in this State. In addition, this board shall provide information and advice on economic testimony received by the Board of Environmental Protection under the Site Location of Development Act.

§ 7013. Appointment

The Governor shall appoint 6 members to the State Advisory Board for Environmental Protection and State Development, referred to in this chapter as the "board."

§ 7014. Membership

The board shall consist of the following: One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the legislative members to serve ex officio; one member of the Board of Environmental Protection to be chosen by the chairman of that board; the Director of the State Development Office or his designee; and 6 members to be appointed by the Governor. The members appointed by the Governor shall be selected on the basis of their interest, education and experience in the areas of economics, business administration and research and development and shall include one representative of labor, one representative of the academic community, 2 representatives of the general public, one representative of industry and one representative of small business.

§ 7015. Meetings

The board shall meet at least 12 times each year and at such other times as the Governor may request. The members of the board appointed by the Governor and the legislative members shall be paid \$35 per meeting and all members shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses. Stenographic assistance shall be provided by the State Development Office. The board shall elect a chairman and a secretary at their first meeting.

§ 7016. Duties

1. Procedures and information systems. The board shall develop procedures and information systems for the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Development Office which will clearly inform the public of:

- A. Technical assistance available;
- B. Sources of financial assistance both private and public;
- C. State laws applicable to specific potential developments and projects; and

D. The state permits and licenses necessary before an applicant may initiate a project.

The board shall develop these procedures so that any person, after making initial contact with any state agency on a proposed project, will be provided with timely information to permit him to plan accordingly and benefit thereby. The board shall consult with the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Development Office in developing these procedures and shall report to the next regular session of the Legislature the procedures it has developed. The board shall continuously monitor the effects and usage made of the information systems and procedures developed and shall report its findings annually to the Legislature.

2. Information and advice. The board shall provide information and advice to the Board of Environmental Protection when it receives testimony of the economic effects of developments being reviewed by it for approval under the Site Location of Development Act.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA § 484, 2nd ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 240, is further amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

The board shall consult with the State Advisory Board for Environmental Protection and State Development for information and advice on the economic testimony it receives.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department, State Development Office the sum of \$18,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
State Development Office		
Personal Services	(1/2) \$3,000	(1/2) \$3,000
State Advisory Board for Environmental Protection and State Development		
Personal Services	3,000	3,000
All Other	3,000	3,000
	<hr/> \$9,000	<hr/> \$9,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will encourage development in the State by providing the public with timely and comprehensive information on permits necessary and assistance available to prospective developers. This bill will require an appropriation from the General Fund of \$9,000 in each year of the biennium.