

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1828**

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H. P. 1625

House of Representatives, June 1, 1977

Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 25. The Committee on State Government suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

Cosponsor: Mr. Garsoe of Cumberland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Reform the State Budgetary Process.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 1581 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

The general fund budget shall be submitted in 2 separate legislative documents. The first shall contain current service appropriations and the 2nd shall contain appropriations for expansions of existing services and for new programs.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA § 1666, as repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 732, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

The Governor shall, at the same time he submits the budget document to the Legislature, submit to the Legislature a review of his recommendations. This review shall contain a comparison of expenditures during the current biennium with his recommendations for the succeeding biennium, shall include dollar and percentage increases and decreases, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following categories of expenditures: General government, economic development, education and culture, human services, manpower, natural resources, public protection and transportation.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 3747, first ¶, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 48, § 1, is further amended to read:

The Legislature shall annually, prior to ~~April 14th~~ **May 1st** enact legislation which shall:

**Sec. 4.** 36 MRSA § 451, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 48, § 3 and by c. 109, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. **Uniform property tax.** Pursuant to the Maine Constitution, Article VIII, Part First, and in addition to subsection 1, a uniform property tax is assessed which shall be determined as follows: The Legislature shall annually, prior to **May 1st**, enact legislation establishing the uniform property tax rate. The uniform property tax rate shall be 13 mills for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending June 30, 1977. The rate shall be applied to the state valuations of each municipality and property in the unorganized territory.

**Sec. 5.** 36 MRSA § 452, 2nd ¶, first sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 48, § 4, is further amended to read:

As soon as practicable after ~~April 14th~~ **May 1st** annually, the State Tax Assessor shall certify to each municipality the amount of state tax due under section 451 in the current calendar year.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a uniform date for determining all current service appropriations, including education, by moving the existing deadline for setting education expenditures to **May 1st**. The same deadline for the Part 1 budget would be established through the Joint Rules. Also, this bill provides guidelines outlining the form of the Governor's budget document.

Joint Rule changes will be necessary to implement this legislation.