

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1465**

H. P. 1085

House of Representatives, March 20, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wood of Sanford.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Create the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources.**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 5004, sub-§ 3, ¶I**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 587, § 1, is amended to read:

**I. Be responsible for the formulation of a comprehensive stage energy resources plan and a state energy policy; and**

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA § 5004, sub-§ 3, ¶J** is enacted to read:

**J. Be responsible for maintaining a close liaison with and making recommendations and reports in cooperation with the Maine Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources.**

**Sec. 3. 5 MRSA § 7002, sub-§ 2, ¶D, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1977, c. 360, § 34, is further amended to read:

The State Development Office shall maintain a close liaison with and make recommendations and reports in cooperation with the Maine Guarantee Authority, the Maine Geological Survey, and the State of Maine Publicity Bureau and the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources.

**Sec. 4. 5 MRSA § 7002, sub-§ 2, ¶H** is enacted to read:

H. The director shall appoint and fix a salary for a full-time Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources to serve at his pleasure and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA c. 362 is enacted to read:

#### CHAPTER 362

### OFFICE OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND NATIVE RESOURCES

#### § 7011. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. **Appropriate.** "Appropriate" means uses of technology which conserve energy, minimize environmental harm and utilize resources within the State to promote self-sufficiency.

2. **Technology.** "Technology" means the practical application of the principles of science.

#### § 7012. Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources

There is established an Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources within the Executive Department to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources shall be directly responsible to the State Development Director.

#### § 7013. Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources

1. **Appointment.** The State Development Director shall appoint a full-time Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the State Development Director and until his successor is appointed and qualified. The director shall be paid a salary fixed by the State Development Director.

2. **Powers and duties.** The director shall exercise the powers of the office and shall be responsible for the execution of its duties.

#### A. The director shall:

(1) Administer the office and adopt such methods of administration not inconsistent with the law as he may determine necessary to render the office efficient;

(2) Appoint and remove staff of the office and prescribe their duties as may be necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter. Professional employees may be hired as unclassified employees. All other employees shall be subject to the Personnel Law;

(3) Prepare and submit a budget for executive and legislative approval;

(4) Be empowered to employ or engage such technical or professional consultants as may be necessary or appropriate to assist the office in carrying out its functions. He may enter into contracts with other boards, commissions, departments and divisions of the State or with the University of Maine to assist him in carrying out his duties under this chapter; and

(5) Be authorized to accept for the State any federal funds appropriated under any federal law relating to the authorized programs of the office and to do such acts as are necessary for carrying out the provisions of the federal law; and to accept from any other agency of government, individual, group or corporation such funds as may be made available to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including such fees as the director may designate for books, booklets, brochures, pamphlets, films, photos, maps, exhibits and all like materials.

**B. The director shall:**

(1) Prepare an appropriate technology policy which includes, but is not limited to, feasible directions for the State concerning state, regional, county, municipal, individual and institutional self-sufficiency in the fields of energy, food, housing and transportation;

(2) Encourage the voluntary use of appropriate technology by state and local government, industry, business and the public. This encouragement shall include, but is not limited to, collecting and analyzing data on appropriate technology from all available sources in and outside the State; preparing publications for dissemination to the public on the use of appropriate technology generally and on specific uses applicable to the State; establishing an appropriate technology information center to provide a comprehensive collection of reference materials on appropriate technology for use by the public; providing staff technical assistance to those engaging in or seeking to engage in specific projects which use appropriate technology; and conducting informational programs throughout the State on specific local uses of appropriate technology;

(3) Encourage and direct or sponsor research, experiments and demonstration projects within the State to determine feasible uses of appropriate technology;

(4) Implement a program designed to promote products created or made available, in whole or in part, by the use of appropriate technology. This program shall include but is not limited to, creating a central source of marketing data for these products to be made available to buyers from within and without the State; and

(5) Maintain a close liaison with and make recommendations and reports in cooperation with the State Development Office and the Office of Energy Resources.

**§ 7014. Report to Legislature**

The Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources shall prepare an annual report to be presented to the Legislature in every regular session of the Legislature. The annual report shall include, but is not limited to, the following: The expenditure of funds, the purposes for which the funds were used and the amount of as well as the sources from which the funds were derived; and the programs developed and implemented by the office, the state of development of each program and the direction of programs planned for the ensuing year.

**§ 7015. Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Development Fund**

All federal and private moneys received by the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources for research and development shall be deposited in the Maine Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Development Fund. The fund shall be administered by the Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources and shall be used only to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources shall be designated the state agency to handle all matters involving appropriate technology within the State which are not the specific responsibility of another state agency under the provisions of federal or state law.

**§ 7016. Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Advisory Board**

1. **Appointment.** The Governor shall appoint an Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Advisory Board to advise the Governor, the Legislature, the State Development Director and the Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources on policy matters relating to this chapter.

2. **Membership.** The Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Advisory Board shall consist of the following: One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, these Legislators to serve ex officio; and the following 7 members to be appointed by the Governor, these members to be selected on the basis of their interest, education and experience in the areas of technological planning, research and development, to include one representative of the small business community, one representative of labor, one representative of the fishing community who is self-employed, one representative of the agricultural community who operates a family farm, one representative of the forest products community, one representative of the academic community and one representative of the general public.

3. **Duties.** The Appropriate Technology and Native Resources Advisory Board shall meet at least 3 times each year and at other times at the request of the Director of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources or the Governor. The members of the board shall provide information and assistance in the development of a state appropriate technology policy and in the research and development phase of the office's activity as requested by the director. The board shall act only in an advisory capacity and shall have no power to control the activities of the office.

§ 7017. Restrictions on employee interests

No member, officer or employee of the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources shall acquire any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract negotiated or proposed by the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources, nor shall any member, officer or employee participate in any decision or contract entered into by the authority if he has an interest, direct or indirect, in any firm, partnership, corporation or association which will be party to that contract or financially involved in any transaction with the authority.

**Sec. 6. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources		
Positions	(3)	(3)
Personal Services	\$40,000	\$40,000
All Other	7,000	7,000
Capital Expenditures	3,000	3,000
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Total	\$50,000	\$50,000

Any unencumbered funds at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse to the General Fund, but shall carry on from year to year under this Act.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates the Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources. The purpose of the office is to encourage less wasteful, more direct means of providing essential commodities, such as food and fuel which are now imported.

Appropriate technology which conserves energy, minimizes environmental harm and utilizes resources within the State to promote self-sufficiency.

The Office of Appropriate Technology and Native Resources will be responsible for preparing a state policy of appropriate technology, directing and sponsoring research and experimentation, disseminating information and providing a marketing program for appropriate technology products. This office is directly responsible to the State Development Office and shall work in cooperation with the Office of Energy Resources.