

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1577**

S. P. 512

In Senate, April 23, 1979

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed. Reported out pursuant to Legislative Council order 4/17/79.

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec, Chairman, Legislative Council.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Amend the Maine Sunset Law.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Sunset Law requires the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review to review and analyze 141 program justification reports before October 31, 1979; and

Whereas, this schedule for sunset reviews does not provide for the most thorough and effective legislative appraisal of the agencies and departments being reviewed; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1.** ~~3 MRSA § 505, sub-§ 2,~~ as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 683, § 1, is amended to read:

**2. Submittal of analyses.** The Joint Standing Committee on Performance Audit and Program Review shall submit to the Legislature the evaluations and analyses prepared pursuant to this section of the departments and independent agencies listed in section 507 and its recommendations and any legislation required to implement them according to the following schedule:

~~Group A~~ **Group A-1**, no later than ~~October 31, 1979~~ **December 31, 1979**; **Group A-2**, no later than **December 31, 1980**; Group B, no later than October 31, 1981; Group C, no later than October 31, 1983; Group D, no later than October 31, 1985; and Group E, no later than October 31, 1987.

The Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review shall submit to the Legislature its evaluations and analyses of justification reports submitted pursuant to § 507-A no later than 14 months after those reports are submitted to the Legislature.

Sec. 2. 3 MRSA § 507, sub-§§ 1 and 2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 683, § 2, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

**1. Group A-1 and A-2 departments.**

**A. The evaluations and analyses of the justification reports for the programs of the following Group A-1 departments shall be reviewed by the Legislature no later than June 30, 1980:**

- (1) Department of Agriculture; and
- (2) Department of Defense and Veterans Services.

**B. The evaluations and analyses of the justification reports for the programs of the following Group A-2 departments shall be reviewed by the Legislature no later than June 30, 1981:**

- (1) Department of Transportation;
- (2) Department of Public Safety; and
- (3) Department of the Secretary of State.

**2. Group A-1 and A-2 independent agencies.**

**A. Unless continued or modified by law, the following Group A-1 independent agencies shall terminate, not including the grace period, no later than June 30, 1980:**

- (1) Maine Blueberry Commission;
- (2) Blueberry Industry Advisory Board;
- (3) Seed Potato Board;
- (4) Maine Milk Commission;
- (5) State Harness Racing Commission;

- (6) **Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board;**
- (7) **Board of Veterinary Medicine;**
- (8) **Maine Milk Tax Committee;**
- (9) **Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council Committee;**
- (10) **Board of Pesticide Control;**
- (11) **State Planning Office; and**
- (12) **State Lottery Commission.**

**B. Unless continued or modified by law, the following Group A-2 independent agencies shall terminate, not including the grace period, no later than June 30, 1981. The Maine Turnpike Authority shall not terminate, but shall be reviewed by the Legislature no later than June 30, 1981:**

- (1) **Maine Turnpike Authority;**
- (2) **Penobscot Bay and River Pilotage Commission;**
- (3) **State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers; and**
- (4) **State Board of Registration for Land Surveyors.**

**Sec. 3. 3 MRSA § 507-A is enacted to read:**

**§ 507-A. Special Sunset Reviews. The Legislature may, by joint resolution passed before May 15th of any year, designate departments or independent agencies for sunset review in addition to those scheduled for review in section 507. All departments and independent agencies so designated shall, pursuant to section 504, subsection 2, submit justification reports to the Legislature no later than October 31st following the passage of the joint resolution.**

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.