

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (Governor's Bill)
2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 **Legislative Document**

No. 1908
7

8 S. P. 812 In Senate, January 28, 1982
Referred to the Committee on State Government and ordered
printed. Sent down for concurrence.

9 MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator Trafton of Androscoggin.

Cosponsors: Representative McGowan of Pittsfield and Represent-
ative Ridley of Shapleigh.

10
11 **STATE OF MAINE**
12

13 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
14 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO
15

16 **AN ACT Relating to the Terms of the**
17 **Public Utilities Commissioners.**
18

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

20 **Sec. 1.** 35 MRSA §1, first sentence, as amended by PL
21 1975, c. 771, §390, is further amended to read:

22 The Public Utilities Commission, as heretofore estab-
23 lished, shall consist of 3 members appointed by the Govern-
24 or, subject to review by the ~~Joint Standing Committee on~~
25 Public Utilities legislative committee having jurisdiction
26 over public utilities and to confirmation by the Legislature
27 from time to time upon the expiration of the terms of the
28 several members, for terms of 7 6 years and all 3 members of
29 the commission shall devote full time to their duties.

30 **Sec. 2.** 35 MRSA §1, as last amended by PL 1975, c.
31 771, §§390-392, is further amended by adding after the first
32 sentence 2 new sentences to read:

1 Each term shall end on March 31st of the 6th year of the
2 term. A commissioner may continue to serve beyond the end
3 of his term until a duly qualified successor is appointed.

4 **Sec. 3. Transition provisions.** The terms of the
5 incumbent members on the effective date of this Act shall
6 not be affected except as provided.

7 1. If the member whose term expires on July 8, 1982
8 either vacates his position prior to that date or completes
9 his term, his successor shall be appointed for a term begin-
10 ning upon qualification for office and expiring on March 31,
11 1987.

12 2. If the member whose term expires on May 1, 1984
13 vacates his position prior to April 1, 1983, his successor
14 shall be appointed to a term expiring on March 31, 1983. In
15 this case, the regular 6-year term will begin on April 1,
16 1983. If the incumbent member vacates his position on or
17 after April 1, 1983, his successor shall be appointed to a
18 term expiring on March 31, 1989.

19 3. If the member whose term expires on February 5,
20 1985 vacates her position prior to its expiration, her suc-
21 cessor shall be appointed to a term expiring March 31, 1985.
22 In this case, the regular 6-year term will begin on April 1,
23 1985. If the incumbent member completes her term, her suc-
24 cessor shall be appointed for a term ending March 31, 1991.

25 Statement of Fact

26 This bill shortens the terms of the commissioners of
27 the Public Utilities Commission from 7 to 6 years. The
28 transition provides that those commissioners appointed
29 immediately after the incumbent commissioners will serve ab-
30 breviated terms; 6-year, staggered terms will begin follow-
31 ing this. In the event any of the incumbent commissioners
32 choose to leave office before the end of a current term, the
33 transition will begin sooner. The terms of the incumbent
34 commissioners are not otherwise affected by this bill.