

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 764

7 H.P. 616

House of Representatives, February 15, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence
9 and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Armstrong of Wilton.

Cosponsor: Representative Brown of Livermore Falls.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Require Prenotification of
18 Agenda for Special Sessions of the
19 Legislature.
20

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

23 2 MRSA §8 is enacted to read:

24 §8. Special legislative sessions; agenda; limitations

25 Whenever the Governor calls a special legislative
26 session pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Arti-
27 cle V, Part First, Section 13, the Governor shall
28 mail to all Legislators an agenda comprising all
29 items to be considered in that special legislative
30 session. The agenda shall be mailed at least 14 days
31 prior to the commencement of the session. No other
32 items may be introduced or considered at that

1 session, except routine orders and resolutions neces-
2 sary for the efficient administration of the Legis-
3 lature, unless both Houses of the Legislature agree
4 by a 2/3 vote.

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

6 The purpose of this bill is to eliminate
7 surprises and to assure that special sessions, in
8 general, will only deal with the specific items for
9 which the special session was called. Oftentimes in
10 the past, when Legislators were called to Augusta for
11 a special session, usually a one-day affair, they
12 were asked to act on bills, resolves, memorials or
13 rule changes of which they had no prior knowledge.
14 Under these circumstances, Legislators did not have
15 the time or opportunity to undertake individual
16 research on the matter, nor were they afforded the
17 opportunity to get the opinions of their constituents
18 on the issue before having to vote. In addition to
19 placing Legislators in a difficult position by allow-
20 ing nonagenda bills and resolves to be introduced on
21 the day of the special session, this practice is con-
22 trary to the public's good and shortchanges the
23 public's input in that the normal public hearing pro-
24 cess is bypassed.

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