

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1221

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H.P. 938

House of Representatives, March 16, 1983

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nadeau of Lewiston.

Cosponsors: Representative Lisnik of Presque Isle, Representative Hobbins of Saco and Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Create a Statewide Task Force  
on Arson.**

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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, fires of suspicious origin is an alarming problem in this State; and

Whereas, it is vitally important that such activity be studied to determine ways and means of reducing the problem; 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 preser-

1 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
2 therefore,

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

5 **Sec. 1. Creation of task force; membership.**

6 There is created a Statewide Task Force on Arson to  
7 consist of 17 members, including 2 representatives  
8 from the Governor's office who are to be appointed by  
9 the Governor, one Senator to be appointed by the  
10 President of the Senate; one Representative to be  
11 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
12 tives; the State Fire Marshal or his designee; one  
13 representative from the Attorney General's office to  
14 be appointed by the Attorney General; the Commis-  
15 sioner of Public Safety or his designee; one repre-  
16 sentative from the insurance industry; one repre-  
17 sentative from full-time fire departments and one  
18 representative from volunteer fire departments, both  
19 of whom shall be appointed by the State Fire Marshal;  
20 one mayor from a city and one mayor or town manager  
21 from a rural town; one representative from a city  
22 police department and one representative from a rural  
23 town police department to be appointed by the Commis-  
24 sioner of Public Safety; one representative from a  
25 District Attorney's office to be appointed by the  
26 Attorney General; and 2 public members, one of whom  
27 shall be from an urban area and one of whom shall be  
28 from a rural area, to be appointed by the Governor.  
29 The Governor shall designate the chairman of the task  
30 force.

31 **Sec. 2. Responsibilities.**

32 1. Investigation and study. The task force shall  
33 investigate and study the arson problem in Maine, and  
34 shall, in the course of its work, examine the follow-  
35 ing issues:

36 A. The nature and magnitude of the arson problem  
37 in the State;

38 B. The putative causes of the arson problem;

39 C. An assessment of the state's present response  
40 to the arson problem;

1 D. An evaluation of the State Fire Marshal's  
2 office role in the arson problem;

3 E. Responses by other states, the insurance  
4 industry and other organizations to the arson  
5 problem; and

6 F. Such other matters and considerations as the  
7 task force deems appropriate in providing to the  
8 Legislature a full and accurate picture of the  
9 problem and ways to eliminate it.

10 Sec. 3. Compensation and support services. All  
11 members of the task force not state employees shall  
12 receive \$40 a day, plus reasonable traveling expenses  
13 for each day or part of a day they engage in activi-  
14 ties necessitated by their task force membership. The  
15 State Fire Marshal's office shall provide clerical  
16 and support staff to the task force.

17 Sec. 4. Report on findings and recommendations.  
18 The task force shall complete its study and report  
19 its findings and recommendations and any necessary  
20 implementing legislation on or before January 5,  
21 1984, to the Second Regular Session of the 111th  
22 Legislature. This report shall address each of the  
23 matters set forth in section 2 and shall include pro-  
24 posed legislation in proper draft form to be enacted  
25 by the Legislature to effectuate the course of action  
26 the task force may recommend in its report.

27 Sec. 5. Appropriation. The following funds are  
28 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
29 purposes of this Act.

|    | <u>1983-84</u>              | <u>1984-85</u> |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 30 |                             |                |
| 31 | <u>STATEWIDE TASK FORCE</u> |                |
| 32 | <u>ON ARSON</u>             |                |
| 33 | All Other                   | \$1,500        |
| 34 |                             | \$1,000        |

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

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The purpose of this bill is to create a Statewide Task Force on Arson to study the problem of arson in the State and to recommend ways to lessen the problem.

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