

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 530

6  
7 H.P. 386

House of Representatives, February 12, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Jackson of Harrison.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Stetson of Damariscotta, Representative  
Higgins of Scarborough and Representative Armstrong of Wilton.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Control the Growth of State  
18 Expenditures.  
19

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

22 3 MRSA c. 26 is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 26

24 STATE EXPENDITURES

25 §581. State expenditures

26 1. Limitation of expenditures. Total state Gen-  
27 eral Fund appropriations, but not expenditures from  
28 state dedicated revenue accounts effective on July 1,  
29 1987, during any fiscal year may not exceed the ap-  
30 propriations for the prior fiscal year by a greater  
31 percentage than the lesser of: The percentage change  
32 in the cost of living or Maine personal income as es-  
33 tablished by recognized indices selected by the Leg-

1 legislature. Debt service payments are excluded from  
2 this limitation. Any amount appropriated above this  
3 limitation is not effective except for funds needed  
4 in case of a declared emergency, in which case the  
5 needed expenditures may be authorized by the Legisla-  
6 ture and the Governor in an emergency bill. Emergen-  
7 cy expenditures may be made only during the fiscal  
8 year for which the emergency is declared and shall be  
9 excluded from future calculations of total expendi-  
10 tures.

11 2. Declaration of emergency. The expenditure  
12 limit of subsection 1 may be exceeded only if all the  
13 following conditions are met:

14 A. The Governor requests the Legislature to de-  
15 clare an emergency;

16 B. The request is specific as to the nature of  
17 the emergency and the amount of funding required  
18 to meet the emergency. This request shall also  
19 state the Governor's recommended method of fund-  
20 ing the emergency; and

21 C. The Legislature declares an emergency in ac-  
22 cordance with the specifics of the Governor's re-  
23 quest by a 2/3 vote of the members elected to  
24 each branch.

25 3. Protection of local government from  
26 state-required costs. The Legislature and the Execu-  
27 tive Department are prohibited from requiring that  
28 nonstate levels of government provide any new or ex-  
29 panded programs or services without reasonable fi-  
30 nancing from sources other than property taxes or  
31 from shifting the cost of existing programs and ser-  
32 vices to either the county or municipal level of gov-  
33 ernment except those shifts governed by statutes ef-  
34 fective on July 1, 1987.

35 4. Termination. This section shall be repealed  
36 on June 30, 1989.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill puts a limit on expenditures from the  
state General Fund undedicated revenues.

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