

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 574

8 S.P. 216

In Senate, February 14 1985

9 Reference to the Committee on State Government suggested and ordered
10 printed.

11 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President Pray of Penobscot.

12
13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT to Expedite Legislative Sessions.
19

20 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
21 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
22 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

23 Whereas, the Constitution of Maine in Article IV,
24 Part Third, Section 1, empowers the Legislature to
25 establish appropriate statutory limits on the length
26 of the first and 2nd regular legislative sessions;
27 and

28 Whereas, the people of the State are entitled to
29 expect that their elected representatives will deal
30 with the legislative business expeditiously; and

31 Whereas, the establishment of a date certain for
32 the adjourning of the Legislature will provide the
33 legislators, the legislative staff, the Executive De-
34 partment, the Judicial Department and the public with
35 a clear time frame for the conduct of the business of
the people; and

1 Whereas, the length of the legislative session is
2 directly related to the expenditure of the public
3 fisc and the shortening of the length of the sessions
4 will result in a substantial savings to the public
5 fisc, as substantial savings can be realized if this
6 legislation is effective now; and

7 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
8 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
9 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
10 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
11 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

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

15 3 MRSA §2, 2nd ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL
16 1975, c. 750, §1, is amended to read:

17 The first regular session of the Legislature af-
18 ter its convening shall adjourn no later than ~~100~~
19 legislative days after its convening the Friday pre-
20 ceding Memorial Day and the 2nd regular session of
21 the Legislature after its convening shall adjourn no
22 later than ~~50 legislative days after its convening~~
23 March 31st. The Legislature, in case of emergency,
24 may by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each House
25 present and voting, extend the date for adjournment
26 for the first or 2nd regular session by no more than
27 ~~5 legislative days, and in case of further emergency,~~
28 ~~may by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each House~~
29 ~~present and voting, further extend the date for ad-~~
30 ~~jourment by 5 additional legislative days~~ excluding
31 Saturday, Sunday and holidays, to occur within 15
32 calendar days. The times for adjournment for the
33 first and 2nd regular sessions may also be extended
34 for one additional legislative day, which need not be
35 a consecutive day, for the purpose of considering
36 possible objections of the Governor to any bill or
37 resolution presented to him by the Legislature under
38 the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third,
39 Section 2.

40 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
41 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
42 proved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill to expedite legislative sessions by setting a date by which the Legislature must adjourn with provision for emergency up to 15 additional calendar days. This procedure will remove the tolling of legislative days during this period and give the Legislature more flexibility in utilizing the time.

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