

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2005

S.P. 746

In Senate, January 7, 1988

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TWITCHELL of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Representative WHITCOMB of Waldo, Senator BLACK of Cumberland, Representative PINES of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Membership of the Soil and
Water Conservation Commission.

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

12 MRSA §51, first ¶, as amended by PL 1983, c. 812, §71, is further amended to read:

The State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004, subsection

1 8, shall serve as an agency of the State and shall
2 perform the functions conferred upon it in this
3 chapter. It shall consist of the following 11
4 members: The Dean of the College of Life Sciences
5 and Agriculture Vice-president for Research and
6 Public Service of the University of Maine, the
7 Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources,
8 the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of
9 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and, the Commissioner
10 of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of
11 Environmental Protection, who shall serve ~~ex~~
12 ~~officies ex officio~~, except that each ex officio
13 member may delegate one of his staff an alternate
14 with policy-making authority to serve regularly in his
15 absence, and 6 soil and water conservation district
16 supervisors, one of which shall represent each of the
17 following 6 areas: Area 1, composed of St. John
18 Valley, Central Aroostook and Southern Aroostook Soil
19 and Water Conservation Districts; Area 2, composed of
20 Washington and Hancock County Soil and Water
21 Conservation Districts; Area 3, composed of Penobscot,
22 Piscataquis and Somerset County Soil and Water
23 Conservation Districts; Area 4, composed of Kennebec,
24 Knox-Lincoln and Waldo County Soil and Water
25 Conservation Districts; Area 5, composed of
26 Androscoggin Valley, Oxford and Franklin County Soil
27 and Water Conservation Districts; Area 6, composed of
28 Cumberland and York County Soil and Water Conservation
29 Districts. Any district organized after October 1,
30 1975, shall be included in one of these 6 areas as
31 determined by the State Soil and Water Conservation
32 Commission.

33 STATEMENT OF FACT

34 The Soil and Water Conservation Commission wishes
35 to add the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to
36 the commission. The membership of the commission was
37 established prior to the formation of the Department
38 of Environmental Protection. It was the intention of

1 the bill to provide a forum for the State's natural
2 resource agencies to coordinate their efforts in
3 assuring soil and water conservation. The primary
4 objective of the commission is to provide for the
5 conservation of the soil and water resources of the
6 State. The Department of Environmental Protection is
7 the State's leading agency in regulating land use
8 activities which may have an impact on soil and water
9 resources.

10 While the commission accomplishes its objective
11 through education and technical assistance, it felt
12 that the Department of Environmental Protection should
13 be included to better coordinate all of the State's
14 programs aimed at its objective.

15 The commission wishes to change the designation of
16 the representative of the university because it finds
17 that its role has broadened from a focus on
18 agriculture. The vice president for research and
19 public service is in the best position to bring to the
20 commission all of the programs of the university
21 relevant to the commission's objectives.

22 The commission is requesting that commissioners
23 delegate alternates with policy-making authority to
24 afford the level of input required as the commission
25 moves toward assuming its leadership position in the
26 State's soil and water conservation programs.

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