

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1546

H.P. 1113

House of Representatives, May 8, 1989

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CARTER of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Representative McGOWAN of Canaan, Representative POULIOT of Lewiston and Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Establish a Commission on State Finance.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)



1
3 §562. Organization; meetings; legislative members

5 The commission shall be organized as follows.

7 1. Chairs. The members of the commission shall elect a chair and a vice-chair of the commission.

9 2. Meeting requirement. The commission shall not conduct any meeting unless at least one legislative member from each House is present.

11 3. First meeting; subsequent meetings. The commission shall hold its first meeting no later than 30 days after the effective date of this chapter and shall meet at the call of the chair or at the request of a majority of the members.

13 4. Legislative members. Members of the Legislature serving as members of the commission shall be considered a joint committee of the 2 Houses of the Legislature constituting and acting as an investigating committee, and as such shall have the powers and duties imposed on such committees by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.

15 §563. Open meetings; executive sessions

17 All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public, except that the commission may meet in executive session as permitted under Title 1, section 405.

19 §564. Powers

21 In carrying out its duties and responsibilities under section 565, the commission shall have the following powers:

23 1. Examination. To examine any document, report or data, including computer programs and data files, held by any state agency. All state agencies shall cooperate with the commission and its employees in any such examination;

25 2. Meet. To meet at such times and places as it considers proper;

27 3. Hearings. As a body or, upon a majority vote of the commission, as a committee composed of 2 or more members with at least one legislative member, to hold hearings at such times and places as it considers proper;

29 4. Subpoenas. Upon a majority vote of the commission, to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, papers, accounts, reports and documents;

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5. Oaths. To administer oaths; and

6. Contracts. To contract with such other agencies or individuals, public or private, as it deems necessary, to provide or prepare such services, facilities, studies and reports to the commission as will assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

§565. Forecasts of revenues, and surplus or deficit

In order for the Legislature and the Governor to establish an appropriate, timely and coordinated fiscal policy for the State, the commission shall provide the Legislature, the Governor, and the public with forecasts of state revenues and current year surplus or deficit at least 4 times each year.

§566. Staff support

The Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall be the secretariat of the commission.

§567. Compensation

The members of the commission who are legislators shall receive the legislative per diem, as defined in Title 3, section 2, for days in attendance at commission meetings. If the commission meets on a day when the Legislature is in session, legislative members shall receive only one legislative per diem on that day. All members shall receive reimbursement for all necessary expenses upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§75-A is enacted to read:

<u>75-A. State</u>	<u>Maine Commission</u>	<u>Legislative</u>	<u>3 MRSA §561</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>on State Finance</u>	<u>per diem</u>	
		<u>for Legislative</u>	
		<u>members only-</u>	
		<u>expenses only</u>	
		<u>for others</u>	

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to create the Maine Commission on State Finance. The commission will be comprised of 9 members from the legislative and executive branches and is directed to

1 provide quarterly forecasts of state revenues and projected state surpluses or deficits.