

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

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Legislative Document

No. 2408

H.P. 1744

House of Representatives, March 5, 1990

Reported by Representative PRIEST for the Commission on Maine's Future pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 60 and Resolve 1989, chapter 3.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

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**An Act to Codify the Maine Vision.**

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

4 1 MRSA c. 33 is enacted to read:

6 CHAPTER 33

8 MAINE VISION

10 §2701. Statement of vision

12 The Legislature finds that the 1980's brought great change  
14 to the State including unanticipated impacts of advancing  
16 technology and growing resource conflicts. The Legislature finds  
18 that the codification of a vision statement for the State's  
future will encourage development of policies and strategies to  
deal with changes and their impacts, and will cause problems to  
be resolved and initiatives to be evaluated in accordance with an  
overall policy for the future of this State.

20 The Legislature declares that the future well-being of the  
22 citizens of this State requires a statement of legislative policy  
24 and intent arising from careful analysis of the deeply-held  
26 values of the people of Maine to serve as a guideline for future  
28 state and local actions, strategies and initiatives. The  
30 Legislature finds that citizen participation in and support for  
the policies of government grows stronger as the policies of  
government reflect the values of our citizens. The Legislature  
encourages state agencies, municipalities and other policy-making  
bodies to conduct their decision making consistent with and in  
consideration of the following policies to:

32 1. Quality of life. Enhance the quality of life available  
34 to the citizens of the State by encouraging:

36 A. A diverse, stable and flexible economy that provides  
choice, opportunity and support for all who wish to work;

38 B. Secure, good-paying jobs in which workers can take pride  
40 in the goods and services they provide and the environments  
in which they work;

42 C. Liveable, affordable housing located near workplaces,  
44 schools and necessary services;

46 D. A system of lifelong education that prepares citizens  
for the inevitable changes in work, lifestyles, government  
and society;

48 E. Quality medical care, human services and cultural  
50 opportunities accessible to all citizens regardless of age,  
52 location or income; and

2           F. The benefits of new technologies that help solve  
3           problems and contribute to the well-being of the people and  
4           environment of the State;

5           2. Family and community values. Advance the strong family  
6           and community values held by the citizens of the State by  
7           promoting:

8           A. Individual and institutional emphasis on nonmaterial  
9           well-being rather than economic values;

10           B. Recognition of each individual's inherent responsibility  
11           to protect and enhance the quality of life which makes the  
12           State unique;

13           C. A healthy, open view of newcomers to communities and the  
14           State, and the contributions they bring to community life;

15           D. A tolerance of diverse lifestyles, beliefs and  
16           expressions;

17           E. A commitment to respect and to reach out to those who  
18           are disadvantaged or have special needs and to foster their  
19           self-reliance;

20           F. A reaffirmation of the importance of family in caring  
21           for children and the elderly;

22           G. Corporate reenforcement of the long-term goals of the  
23           State and the public interest; and

24           H. A respect for the interconnectedness of the world as an  
25           economic, environmental, social and political global  
26           community;

27           3. Tradition. Promote continuity in the State's  
28           traditional way of life by fostering:

29           A. The growth of the population in balance with the  
30           capacity of the State's natural, institutional and financial  
31           resources to accommodate development;

32           B. The atmosphere of informality, heterogeneity, community  
33           spirit and caring within the towns and the peace, solitude  
34           and seclusion offered by the wilderness;

35           C. A simple, low-keyed and healthy daily existence that is  
36           free from congestion, crime, pollution and unchecked  
37           bureaucracy and that is based upon self-reliance;

38

2 D. The high quality and diversity of natural and cultural  
3 resources, and ensuring that natural systems are utilized  
4 but not sacrificed for individual economic gain;

6 E. The protection of the diverse landscape that is  
7 dominated by the natural environment and rural countryside,  
8 scenic beauty, open and undeveloped character and historic  
9 and other special values;

10 F. The concentration of development in villages, town and  
11 city compact areas, and other appropriate places;

12 G. The ability to gain unfettered access to the vast  
13 outdoors, including remote wilderness areas, beaches and  
14 open spaces; and

15 H. Farming, forestry, commercial fishing and outdoor  
16 recreation and the protection from permanent conversion to  
17 other use of the resource bases and points of access upon  
18 which they depend;

20 4. Government. Encourage a system of State Government that:

22 A. Provides basic services and ensures equal access to such  
23 opportunities as decent housing, education and health care;

24 B. Is responsive to changing conditions and the needs of  
25 the people;

26 C. Is representative of and led by the public interest;

27 D. Provides opportunity and encouragement to citizens to  
28 become leaders and participants in daily governmental  
29 affairs; and

30 E. Makes decisions on a local level when possible; and

31 5. Guiding principles. Implement the vision outlined in  
32 subsections 1 to 4 in accordance with the following guiding  
33 principles:

34 A. The people and the land are of primary importance;

35 B. Prospects for the future should be managed with an eye  
36 toward effecting the desired outcome, rather than reacting  
37 to the effects of change;

38 C. Society should be well informed. Policy-making bodies  
39 should develop, maintain and make readily accessible basic  
40 facts for monitoring and adjusting to changing circumstances;  
41

- 2           D. Governments, branches of governments and the private
- 4           sector should act in partnership at leadership levels to
- coordinate the development and implementation of strategies
- to achieve the desired outcome;
- 6           E. Wasteful consumption should be avoided and reduced;
- things should be built and maintained to last;
- 8           F. The people of the State should invest in the future
- 10          rather than simply depleting resources and focusing on
- short-term needs;
- 12          G. Decisions should be based upon sound data and a thorough
- 14          understanding of current conditions, including social values;
- 16          H. Access to and participation in State Government should
- 18          be encouraged; people so involved should be responded to in
- a timely and respectful manner;
- 20          I. Needs assessments should occur prior to, and apart from,
- 22          determinations of funding; funding issues should not
- obstruct commitment to meeting critical needs;
- 24          J. The essential balance between the needs and rights of
- 26          individuals and those of society should be reaffirmed; the
- interconnectedness of individual, local, regional, state,
- national and global actions should be respected;
- 28          K. Policy decisions should be made in ways that serve to
- 30          nurture self-reliance; and
- 32          L. A healthy people, a healthy environment and a healthy
- 34          government will create a healthy economy.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

38           This bill is one of 8 bills containing the recommendations  
of the Commission on Maine's Future.

40           This bill codifies the long-term goals and guiding  
42 principles for the State's future as expressed in the report  
released by the commission in 1989. The values, goals and  
44 guiding principles expressed in this bill are the product of the  
work of the Commission on Maine's Future and reflect the results  
46 of extensive values and opinion surveys, questionnaires, public  
hearings and commission meetings. The commission's final report  
48 recommended incorporation of these value statements, goals and  
guiding principles in statutory form so that government and  
50 Maine's citizens would have a general path, based on strongly  
held values, to follow in the creation of Maine's future.