

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1451

S.P. 547

In Senate, April 8, 1991

Reported by Senator KANY of Kennebec for the Commission on Maine's Future pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 60, Resolve 1989, chapter 3 and Resolve 1989, chapter 72.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 18.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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An Act to Codify the Maine Vision.

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

1 MRSA c. 33 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 33

MAINE VISION

§2701. Statement of vision

The Legislature finds that the 1980's brought great change to the State including unanticipated impacts of advancing technology and growing resource conflicts. The Legislature finds 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.

The Legislature declares that the future well-being of the citizens of this State requires a statement of legislative policy and intent arising from careful analysis of the deeply-held values of the people of Maine to serve as a guideline for future state and local actions, strategies and initiatives. The 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20          D. A tolerance of diverse lifestyles, beliefs and  
22          expressions;

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

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

30          G. Corporate reenforcement of the long-term goals of the  
32          State and the public interest; and

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

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

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

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

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

- 2           D. The high quality and diversity of natural and cultural  
4           resources, and ensuring that natural systems are utilized  
            but not sacrificed for individual economic gain;
- 6           E. The protection of the diverse landscape that is  
8           dominated by the natural environment and rural countryside,  
            scenic beauty, open and undeveloped character and historic  
10           and other special values;
- 12           F. The concentration of development in villages, town and  
            city compact areas, and other appropriate places;
- 14           G. The ability to gain unfettered access to the vast  
16           outdoors, including remote wilderness areas, beaches and  
            open spaces; and
- 18           H. Farming, forestry, commercial fishing and outdoor  
20           recreation and the protection from permanent conversion to  
            other use of the resource bases and points of access upon  
22           which they depend;
- 24           4. Government. Encourage a system of State Government that:
- 26           A. Provides basic services and ensures equal access to such  
            opportunities as decent housing, education and health care;
- 28           B. Is responsive to changing conditions and the needs of  
30           the people;
- 32           C. Is representative of and led by the public interest;
- 34           D. Provides opportunity and encouragement to citizens to  
            become leaders and participants in daily governmental  
36           affairs; and
- 38           E. Makes decisions on a local level when possible; and
- 40           5. Guiding principles. Implement the vision outlined in  
            subsections 1 to 4 in accordance with the following guiding  
42           principles:
- 44           A. The people and the land are of primary importance;
- 46           B. Prospects for the future should be managed with an eye  
            toward effecting the desired outcome, rather than reacting  
48           to the effects of change;
- 50           C. Society should be well informed. Policy-making bodies  
            should develop, maintain and make readily accessible basic  
            facts for monitoring and adjusting to changing circumstances;

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  
8 E. Wasteful consumption should be avoided and reduced;  
things should be built and maintained to last;

10 F. The people of the State should invest in the future  
12 rather than simply depleting resources and focusing on  
short-term needs;

14 G. Decisions should be based upon sound data and a thorough  
16 understanding of current conditions, including social values;

18 H. Access to and participation in State Government should  
be encouraged; people so involved should be responded to in  
a timely and respectful manner;

20  
22 I. Needs assessments should occur prior to, and apart from,  
determinations of funding; funding issues should not  
24 obstruct commitment to meeting critical needs;

26 J. The essential balance between the needs and rights of  
individuals and those of society should be reaffirmed; the  
28 interconnectedness of individual, local, regional, state,  
national and global actions should be respected;

30 K. Policy decisions should be made in ways that serve to  
32 nurture self-reliance; and

34 L. A healthy people, a healthy environment and a healthy  
government will create a healthy economy.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

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

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