

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1673, L.D. 2349, Bill, "An Act to Provide Regulatory and Permitting Assistance to Businesses"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13054, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Permit. "Permit" means a license, certificate, registration or other authorization required by a governmental agency for a business undertaking. "Permit" includes, but is not limited to, a permit by rule issued by the Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with Title 38, section 344, subsection 7.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 3 in paragraph A in the 2nd line (page 1, line 45 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "section" and inserting in its place the following: 'subsection'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 3 by striking out all of paragraph B (page 2, lines 5 to 23 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'B. Each state agency required to review, approve or grant permits for business undertakings, projects and activities, subsequent to its report pursuant to paragraph A, shall provide to the office, for information purposes only, a report of any new permit or modification of any existing permit together with applicable forms, rules and information required under subsections 1 and 2 regarding the new or modified permit. To ensure that the department's information is current, each agency shall report immediately to the office when a new permit is adopted or any existing permit is modified. "Permit," as used in this paragraph, refers to the categorical authorization required for an

2 activity. "Permit" does not mean a permit issued to a  
3 particular individual or business.'

4 Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 4 by  
5 striking out all of the first paragraph (page 2, lines 39 to 43  
6 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

8 '4. Permit assistance. Within 90 days of the effective  
9 date of this subsection the director shall set up procedures to  
10 assist permit applicants who have encountered difficulties in  
11 obtaining timely and efficient permit review. These procedures  
12 must include the following.'

14 Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 4 in  
15 paragraph B in subparagraph (4) in the last line (page 3, line 16  
16 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "review;" the  
17 following: 'and'

18 Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 4 in  
19 paragraph B in subparagraph (5) in the last line (page 3, line 19  
20 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "practicable; and" and  
21 inserting in its place the following: 'practicable.'

24 Further amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 4 in  
25 paragraph B by striking out all of subparagraph (6) (page 3,  
26 lines 21 to 24 in L.D.)

28 Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and  
29 inserting in its place the following:

30 **'Sec. 3. Business permit center feasibility study.** The Commissioner  
31 of Economic and Community Development, referred to in this  
32 section as the "commissioner," shall convene a meeting of the  
33 commissioners or directors of agencies that issue business  
34 permits to assess the advisability of establishing a business  
35 permitting center.

38 The commissioner shall invite business representatives to  
39 participate in the discussions of this group. The commissioner  
40 shall convene meetings of the agency and business representatives  
41 as necessary to study the establishment of a business permit  
42 center including, but not limited to, the following:

44 1. A review of business license centers operating in other  
45 states;

46 2. An assessment of the types of permits and licenses  
47 appropriate for processing at a licensing center;

2 3. Consideration of ways of simplifying the application  
process for both original and renewal licenses, including  
adoption of a single application form for many licenses; and

4  
6 4. A comparison of the advisability of allowing businesses  
to establish either staggered dates or a common expiration or  
renewal date for all licenses.

8  
10 The commissioner shall submit a report with recommendations,  
including any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint  
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
12 economic development matters and to the Executive Director of the  
Legislative Council no later than January 30, 1993. The report  
14 must include recommendations for reducing the paper-work burden  
of permitting on businesses and increasing the efficiency of  
16 agency licensing procedures. If establishment of a licensing  
center is recommended, the report must contain an implementation  
18 plan and cost estimates for establishing and operating the  
center.'

20  
22 Further amend the bill by inserting after the emergency  
clause and before the statement of fact the following:

24 **FISCAL NOTE**

26 The Department of Economic and Community Development can  
absorb within existing resources the costs associated with  
28 maintaining information on business permits and assisting  
applicants who have encountered difficulties in the permit review  
30 process. The department can further absorb the costs associated  
with convening a meeting to review the feasibility of  
32 establishing a business permitting center, including the  
preparation of a report and the submission of any necessary  
34 legislation.'

36  
38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40 This amendment removes the language regarding an advocacy  
role for the Director of the Office of Business Development. It  
42 adds a definition of "permit" and clarifies that the information  
developed and maintained by the Office of Business Development is  
44 categorical permit information and not information relating to  
individual permit records. The amendment clarifies that the  
46 involvement of the Department of Economic and Community  
Development in permit assistance is initiated by an applicant's  
48 request for assistance. The amendment strikes the language  
related to the Department of Economic and Community Development  
50 assigning processing priorities to applications.

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2           The amendment rewrites section 3 of the bill to clarify the  
objectives of the business license center study. The amendment  
4           also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Reported by the Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the  
House

3/19/92

(Filing No. H-1164)