

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 945,
L.D. 2409, Bill, "An Act to Improve Educational Public
Broadcasting Statewide"

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the
title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place
the following:

'Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title
and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the
following:

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

Sec. 1. Commission established; membership. The Select
Commission on Public Broadcasting, known in this Act as the
"commission," is established to consider changes in the delivery
of educational noncommercial radio and television programming in
this State. The commission consists of 6 members: one Senator
appointed by the President of the Senate; one member of the House
of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
Representatives; one employee and one member of the Maine Public
Broadcasting Network, known as MPBN, appointed by the Governor;
and one employee and one member of WCBB, operated by the
Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Educational Telecasting Corporation,
appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. Appointments; meetings. All appointments must be made
no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act.
The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be
notified by all appointing authorities once the selections have
been made. When the appointment of all members has been
completed, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and
convene the first meeting of the commission no later than August
1, 1992. The commission shall select a chair from among its
members.

Sec. 3. Duties. The commission shall study the feasibility of
changes to MPBN and WCBB. In conducting the study the

commission shall examine whether the financial, educational and
policy interests of the State are best met by maintaining the
current structure of the 2 entities, combining MPBN and WCBB to
form a public broadcasting network, combining MPBN and WCBB to
form a private nonprofit corporation or some other alternative.

Sec. 4. Powers. In performing the duties in section 3, the
commission may:

1. Meet at convenient times and places within the State;
2. Hold informational sessions for discussions with the
public and other knowledgeable persons; and
3. Conduct research on questions within the scope of the
study.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. MPBN and WCBB shall provide staffing
assistance to the commission. The commission may request
staffing assistance from the Legislative Council.

Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Members of the commission who are
Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined
in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for days of
attendance at commission meetings. All members of the commission
who are not state employees are entitled to expenses, as defined
in Title 5, section 12002, subsection 2, upon application to the
Executive Director of the Legislative Council for those expenses.

Sec. 7. Report. The commission shall submit its report
together with any necessary implementing legislation to the First
Regular Session of the 116th Legislature no later than December
15, 1992.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The amendment replaces the bill and establishes the Select
Commission on Public Broadcasting to consider changes in the
delivery of educational noncommercial radio and television
programming in the State. The commission will study whether WCBB
and MPBN should merge to form some new entity or remain
separate. The commission must submit a report and any
implementing legislation by December 15, 1992.

Filed by Rep. O'Dea of Orono
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House
3/25/92 (Filing No. H-1276)