

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 538

H.P. 419

House of Representatives, February 17, 1993

**An Act to Improve Communication between the Executive and  
Legislative Branches.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, BENNETT of Norway,  
CARROLL of Gray, JOSEPH of Waterville, LIBBY of Buxton, MITCHELL of Vassalboro,  
MORRISON of Bangor, WALKER of Blue Hill, YOUNG of Limestone, Senators: BALDACCI  
of Penobscot, PINGREE of Knox.

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

4 Sec. 1. 2 MRSA c. 5 is enacted to read:

6 CHAPTER 5

8 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES

10 §101. Information and question session with House of  
Representatives

12 Not less than once every 3 weeks during the first and 2nd  
regular sessions of the Legislature and any special session of 3  
or more weeks in length, the Governor shall participate in an  
information and question session with the Senate and the House of  
Representatives in joint convention as provided in Title 3,  
chapter 8.

18 Sec. 2. 3 MRSA c. 8 is enacted to read:

20 CHAPTER 8

22 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES

24 §191. Information and question session with Governor

26 1. Frequent sessions. Not less than once every 3 weeks  
during the first and 2nd regular sessions of the Legislature and  
any special session of 3 or more weeks in length, the Senate and  
the House of Representatives in joint convention shall  
participate in an information and question session with the  
Governor as provided in Title 2, chapter 5.

34 2. Question and answer schedule. Members of the Senate and  
the House of Representatives may ask questions of the Governor  
and the Governor shall reply according to the following schedule.

38 A. The total time for questions and replies is limited to  
one hour for each information and question session.

40 B. A question must be asked in not more than 1 1/2 minutes.

42 C. The Governor shall reply in not more than 4 1/2 minutes.

44 D. The number of questions asked must be allocated to the  
nearest 5 minutes to each party according to its  
proportional representation in the Senate and the House of  
Representatives.

2 E. Questioners must be chosen by lottery conducted by the  
4 Clerk of the House of Representatives. The clerk shall  
6 conduct the lottery no more than 48 hours before the  
8 information and question session. Once given the  
10 opportunity to ask a question during the information and  
12 question session, a Legislator may not participate in  
14 another lottery until all Legislators in that party have  
16 been given the opportunity to ask a question during an  
18 information and question session.

## 12 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 The purpose of this bill is to create in Maine an  
16 information and question session involving the Governor, the  
18 Senate and the House of Representatives, using as a model the  
20 British Parliament's sessions with the Prime Minister, to  
increase the quantity and quality of discussion between the  
legislative and executive branches of government.

22 The bill sets up the sessions to last one hour, with up to  
24 one and 1/2 minutes allotted for each question and up to 4 and  
26 1/2 minutes allotted for each answer by the Governor. How many  
questions each party may to ask is determined by the percentage  
of representation of each party in the Senate and the House of  
Representatives.