

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 919

S.P. 303

In Senate, March 15, 1993

**An Act to Extend the Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.  
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CONLEY of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: HANLEY of Oxford, Representative: COTE of Auburn.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts, which has worked since 1989 to develop recommendations to promote equal justice for all those served by the courts, has submitted its final report to be presented to the Legislature; and

Whereas, the commission has operated without any contribution of General Fund or other state money, instead seeking and securing grant funds from organizations supporting planning activities for accommodating the judicial needs of the 21st century; and

Whereas, official approval of the commission's activities to carry out its charge through the end of the grant funding and reporting cycles and to begin the process of implementing its recommendations is appropriate; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. PL 1989, c. 891, Pt. B, §8, as amended by PL 1991, c. 539, §2, is further amended to read:

Sec. B-8. Commencement and continuation of commission. The commencement and continuation of the commission through February 28 August 1, 1993, are contingent on the commission's successful solicitation of funds from sources other than the General Fund. The chair is authorized to solicit and receive funds on behalf of the commission before its first meeting.

Sec. 2. Retroactivity. Section 1 of this Act takes effect retroactively to February 28, 1993.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved unless otherwise indicated.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

The Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts has submitted its final report and recommendations to be presented to

2 the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and  
the Legislature. The commission is funded through grants, and  
4 official statutory authority to continue through August 1st of  
this year will be helpful for the commission to carry out its  
6 obligations under the law and grant contacts and will allow the  
commission to assist in the implementation of its  
recommendations. The retroactivity clause makes it clear that  
8 the commission's authority does not expire on February 28, 1993.