

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

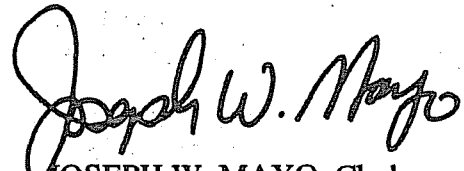
No. 1385

H.P. 1033

House of Representatives, April 30, 1993

An Act to Provide One Centralized Location for Obtaining Permits.

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WINN of Glenburn.

Cosponsored by Representative MICHAEL of Auburn, Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13063, sub-§§3 and 4, as enacted by PL 1991, c.
826, §2, are repealed.

6 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13063, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

8 5. Permitting center. There is established within the
10 office a permitting center to improve business and governmental
12 relations by providing a central source for conflict resolution
14 and assistance on permits. For purposes of this subsection, the
16 term "permit" does not include a professional license that
18 requires a combination of education, experience and testing to
20 determine issuance. Each state agency required to review,
22 approve or grant permits for business undertakings, projects and
activities 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
regarding the new or modified permit. To ensure that the
center's information is current, each agency shall report
immediately to the office when a new permit is adopted or any
existing permit is modified. The duties of the center are as
follows.

24 A. The office shall provide comprehensive permit
26 information on the basis of the information received from
28 state agencies. The office may prepare and distribute
30 publications, guides and other materials explaining permit
32 requirements affecting business and including requirements
involving multiple permits or multiple state agencies that
are based on the state agency reports and the information
file for the convenience of permit applicants.

34 B. The center shall develop a tracking system to track
36 permits issued by state agencies. This system must at a
38 minimum include information on the client, agency
involvement, time elapsed or expended on the permit and
action taken.

40 C. Any applicant for permits required for a business
42 undertaking, project or activity may confer with the office
and review of applications.

44 D. The office shall, as far as possible, give assistance
46 and the director may designate an officer or employee of the
office to act as an expediter with the purpose of:

2 (1) Facilitating contacts for the applicant with state
4 agencies responsible for processing and reviewing
 permit applications;

6 (2) Arranging conferences to clarify the interest and
8 requirements of any state agency with respect to permit
 applications;

10 (3) Considering with state agencies the feasibility of
12 consolidating hearings and data required of the
 applicant;

14 (4) Assisting the applicant in the resolution of
16 outstanding issues identified by state agencies,
 including delays experienced in permit review; and

18 (5) Coordinating federal, state and local permit
 review actions to the extent practicable.

20 E. The center shall mediate permitting disputes by
22 determining the extent of the problem and helping the
 parties come to a timely resolution.

24 (1) Office staff shall operate as ombudsmen for
26 businesses requiring permits or licenses from State
 Government in any dispute brought to their attention.

28 (2) Each agency that issues permits for businesses
30 must designate a representative for office staff to
 interact with on permitting issues.

32 (3) Unless agency representatives respond to office
34 requests within 5 working days of the request, the
 office shall contact the commissioner of the agency.

36 F. The center shall annually report to the joint standing
38 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
40 economic development on the effectiveness of the program any
 any obstacles in running the program.

42 **Sec. 3. Studies.** By March 15, 1994, permitting agencies with
44 permits handled by the Department of Economic and Community
46 Development, Office of Business Development permitting center
48 that do not have a system for permit renewal notification must
50 examine the feasibility of developing a mechanism to notify
 businesses when their permits expire. Permitting agencies also
 must review the feasibility of establishing common or staggered
 expiration dates for their permits to help businesses financially
 and administratively. Staff of the Office of Business
 Development shall coordinate these studies.

2

STATEMENT OF FACT

4

6 This bill establishes a permitting center within the
8 Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of
10 Business Development. The center will allow businesses to get
all necessary state license or permit applications in one
location. The center also mediates disputes between permitting
agencies and businesses and tracks permitting actions within
State Government.