

# 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)



# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

---

Legislative Document

No. 146

---

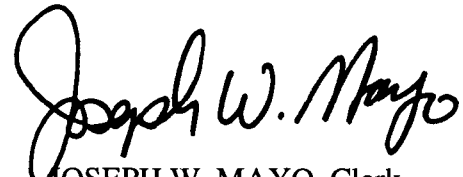
H.P. 111

House of Representatives, January 17, 1995

**An Act to Reduce the Expense of the Legislative Process by Shortening  
the Length of Legislative Sessions.**

---

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative UNDERWOOD of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BIRNEY of Paris, BUCK of Yarmouth, LANE of Enfield,  
LEMKE of Westbrook, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton, Senators: FERGUSON of Oxford,  
HANLEY of Oxford.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 166, is  
5 further amended to read:

6 The first regular session of the Legislature, ~~after its~~  
7 ~~convening~~, shall adjourn no later than the ~~3rd Wednesday in June~~  
8 2nd Wednesday in April and the 2nd regular session of the  
9 Legislature shall adjourn no later than the ~~3rd Wednesday in~~  
10 April first Wednesday in March. The Legislature, in case of  
11 emergency, may, by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each House  
12 present and voting, extend the date for adjournment for the first  
13 or 2nd regular session by no more than 5 legislative days, and,  
14 in case of further emergency, may, by a vote of 2/3 of the  
15 members of each House present and voting, further extend the date  
16 for adjournment by 5 additional legislative days. The times for  
17 adjournment for the first and 2nd regular sessions may also be  
18 extended for one additional legislative day for the purpose of  
19 considering possible objections of the Governor to any bill or  
20 resolution presented to him the Governor by the Legislature under  
21 the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 2.  
22 The date for cloture for the first regular session is the first  
23 Tuesday after the first Monday in December.

24 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §1676** is enacted to read:

25 **§1676. Budget from preceding biennium when Legislature fails to**  
26 **enact budget**

27 If the Legislature in a first regular session fails to enact  
28 a biennial budget for the operation of State Government for the  
29 ensuing biennium by the adjournment date established in Title 3,  
30 section 2, including any extensions of the first regular session,  
31 then the General Fund appropriations and allocations from all  
32 other funds in effect for the current state fiscal year continue  
33 in effect for each year of the ensuing biennium until amended by  
34 law.

35  
36  
37  
38  
39 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40  
41  
42 This bill shortens legislative sessions by providing that  
43 the first regular session will adjourn no later than the 2nd  
44 Wednesday in April and the 2nd regular session will adjourn no  
45 later than the first Wednesday in March. The bill also sets  
46 cloture date as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in  
47 December for the first regular session.

48  
49 Under this bill, if the Legislature in a first regular  
50 session fails to enact a biennial budget by the adjournment date,

2 then the appropriations and allocations in effect for that  
current fiscal year continue for each fiscal year of the ensuing  
biennium until modified by law.