

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1376

H.P. 967

House of Representatives, April 19, 1995

**An Act to Make Any Recorded Tapes of Legislative Sessions or
Legislative Hearings Public Information.**

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 14, 1995. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GERRY of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAVIDSON of Brunswick, GUERRETTE of Pittston,
LUMBRA of Bangor, O'NEAL of Limestone, UNDERWOOD of Oxford, WATERHOUSE
of Bridgton, Senator: RAND of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §§23 and 43** are repealed and the following
enacted in their place:

6 **§23. Records**

8 The records of the Senate as recorded or written may not be
9 altered. The original record written or recorded while the
10 Senate is in session must be available for public inspection.
11 For purposes of this section, "record" means to cause sound or
12 visual images to be transformed and registered by mechanical
13 means in such a way that the sound or visual images can be
14 subsequently reproduced.

16 **§43. Records**

18 The records of the House of Representatives as recorded or
19 written may not be altered. The original record written or
20 recorded while the House of Representatives is in session must be
21 available for public inspection. For purposes of this section,
22 "record" means to cause sound or visual images to be transformed
23 and registered by mechanical means in such a way that the sound
24 or visual images can be subsequently reproduced.

26 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §159, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 685,
Pt. A, §4, is amended to read:

28
29 Records filed with the Legislative Information Office
30 pursuant to this chapter are public records upon filing and are
31 subject to public review pursuant to Title 1, chapter 13. Any
32 record whether written or recorded may not be altered.

34 **Sec. 4. 3 MRSA §165, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 590,
§8, is amended to read:

36
37 **5. Minutes.** A committee shall keep minutes of matters
38 considered and votes taken at its meetings and shall make reports
39 to the Legislature on all matters ~~which~~ that come before the
40 committee, the actions taken ~~thereon~~ on those matters and the
41 progress made in relation ~~thereto~~ to those matters.
42 Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13, all original records whether
43 written or recorded may not be altered and must be available for
44 public inspection;

46
47 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

48
49 This bill prohibits the alteration of any written or
50 recorded material from the Senate, the House of Representatives,
51 confirmation hearings or legislative hearings. The bill also
52 requires that the original records be available for public
inspection.