

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 3/27/96

(Filing No. H- 868 )

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

12

14

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 761,  
"Joint Order to Amend the Joint Rules"

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Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

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'Amend the Joint Order by striking out all of Joint Rule 301 and Joint Rule 302 and inserting in their place the following:

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'Rule 301. Joint Standing Committee Responsibilities and Jurisdiction.

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Joint standing committees are formed to assist the Legislature in the performance of its constitutional duties and are vested with the general authority granted in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 165 and certain other specific authority granted from time to time by the Legislature. The responsibilities of joint standing committees include, but are not limited to:

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1. Pending Legislation. Considering and reporting to both chambers on legislation pending before the Legislature;

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2. Budget and Fiscal Policy Issues. Reviewing and making recommendations on budgeting and fiscal policy issues concerning State Government;

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3. Actions of Departments and Agencies. Conducting oversight and review of the actions of departments and agencies of State Government, including, but not limited to, review of agency rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapters II and II-A and agency evaluations under the State Government Evaluation Act;

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2           4. Gubernatorial Appointments. Reviewing and making  
recommendations on gubernatorial appointments that require  
4 legislative confirmation under Title 3, chapter 6; and

6           5. Other Tasks. Performing other tasks assigned to them,  
including, but not limited to, reviewing specific provisions of  
8 law, conducting studies on assigned topics, issuing reports on  
policy and legal issues of interest to the Legislature, reporting  
10 out specific legislation pursuant to joint order and authorizing  
the annual budgets of certain counties.

12           6. Jurisdiction. As authorized by Title 3, section 165,  
14 there are 17 joint standing committees, which must be appointed  
at the commencement of the first regular session and which  
16 exercise jurisdiction in the following areas:

18           A. Nine-member joint standing committees:

- 20           Agriculture, conservation and forestry
- Banking and insurance
- 22           Business and economic development
- Criminal justice
- 24           Inland fisheries and wildlife
- Judiciary
- 26           Legal and veterans affairs
- Marine resources
- 28           State and local government

30           B. Thirteen-member joint standing committees:

- 32           Appropriations and financial affairs
- Education and cultural affairs
- 34           Health and human services
- Labor
- 36           Natural resources
- Taxation
- 38           Transportation
- Utilities and energy

40           Rule 302. Membership.

42           Each of the joint standing committees listed in Rule 301,  
44 subsection 6, paragraph A consists of a maximum of 9 members, 2  
from the Senate and 7 from the House of Representatives. Each of  
46 the joint standing committees listed in Rule 301, subsection 6,  
paragraph B consists of a maximum of 13 members, not more than 3  
48 and not less than 2 from the Senate and not more than 10 from the  
House of Representatives. The first Senate member named is the  
50 Senate chair. The first House member named is the House chair.  
The Senate chair shall preside and in the Senate chair's absence,

2 the House chair shall preside and, thereafter, as the need may  
3 arise, the chair shall alternate between the members from each  
4 chamber in the sequence of their appointment to the committee.  
5 The sequence of appointment for the biennium is as announced by  
6 the presiding officers in each chamber. Every member of the  
7 Senate and the House of Representatives is entitled to at least  
8 one initial committee assignment; however, a Legislator may not  
9 serve on more than one committee.'

10 Further amend the Joint Order by striking out all of Joint  
11 Rule 305 and inserting in its place the following:

12 **'Rule 305. Scheduling Public Hearings and Work Sessions.**

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14 At the beginning of each regular session, each committee  
15 shall recommend to the presiding officers specific days for its  
16 public hearings and work sessions, taking into consideration the  
17 availability of assigned staff and hearing rooms. Upon approval  
18 of the schedule by the presiding officers, the chairs shall try  
19 to schedule all committee work on those days. Each committee  
20 shall distribute a detailed list of hearings and work sessions  
21 that have been scheduled for the following week to all committee  
22 members. This schedule must also be posted.

23  
24 Public hearings must be advertised 2 weekends in advance of  
25 the hearing date. All exceptions must be approved by both  
26 presiding officers.

27  
28 The committee shall direct the committee clerk to notify all  
29 sponsors of the bill of the public hearing and work session on  
30 the bill.

31  
32 It is the intent of the Legislature that a person not be  
33 denied access to committee public hearings and work sessions  
34 because of a disability. Committees shall provide reasonable  
35 access for disabled persons to their proceedings.

36  
37 Meetings may not be scheduled to coincide with legislative  
38 sessions.'

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41 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

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43 This amendment, which incorporates the name change made by  
44 Senate Amendment "A," makes the following changes to the proposed  
45 Joint Rules:  
46

R & S.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 761

2           1. It makes some of the joint standing committees 9-member  
3 committees and some of the joint standing committees 13-member  
4 committees; and

6           2. It prohibits a Legislator from being on more than one  
7 joint standing committee.

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SPONSORED BY: Edmund E. Benedikt  
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TOWN: Brunswick

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