

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: *May 21, 1997*

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APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Reported by: *Minority*

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 375, L.D. 1234, Bill, "An Act to Reduce the Cost of State Government"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1, 2 and 3 (page 1, lines 3 to 39 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 1. Appointed and major policy-influencing positions; position eliminations. State department and agencies, with the assistance of the Bureau of Human Resources within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, shall develop a plan to reduce the number of state officials appointed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2, section 6, major policy-influencing positions identified in Title 5, chapter 71 and all other positions appointed by the Governor to achieve General Fund savings equivalent to 10% of the total General Fund cost of those positions. The Director of the Bureau of Human Resources shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than January 15, 1998 proposing the positions to be eliminated and including legislation to implement the position eliminations and to distribute the savings among the affected General Fund programs in State Government.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 375, L.D. 1234

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

1998-99

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund (\$500,000)

Section 1 of the bill requires that certain state positions be eliminated to achieve General Fund savings equivalent to 10% of the total General Fund cost of those types of positions. The bill includes a General Fund deappropriation of \$500,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 from the Executive Branch Departments and Agencies - Statewide account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. It can not be determined if the specified 10% reduction in General Fund costs will achieve this level of General Fund savings.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. It strikes those sections that would require a 2/3 vote of all members elected to each House of the Legislature to establish new appointive and major, policy-influencing positions. It broadens the scope of positions to be reviewed for possible elimination to include all positions appointed by the Governor. The amendment also calls for a report and legislation to be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs prior to the elimination of any position. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.