

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1635

S.P. 530

In Senate, March 24, 1997

An Act to Make Changes to the Official Maine State Symbols.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PINGREE of Knox. (BY REQUEST).

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §201** is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §§201-A and 201-B** are enacted to read:

8 **§201-A. State seal**

10 The official seal of the State is the seal in the possession
12 of and in use by the Secretary of State on January 1, 1997. The
14 Secretary of State shall issue specifications of the official
16 seal and require that all future seals conform to those
18 specifications. All acts, resolves, commissions and other
20 documents sealed under the present seal prior to the effective
22 date of this section are deemed to have been sealed with the
24 official seal.

26 **§201-B. Coat of arms**

28 The official coat of arms of the State is the same as the
30 official seal without the encircling ring. The Secretary of
32 State shall issue specifications for the coat of arms, including
34 coloring and an heraldic blazon. All models, displays and other
36 illustrations of the official coat of arms must meet the
38 specifications of the Secretary of State.

40 **Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §206** is repealed.

42 **Sec. 4. 1 MRSA §§206-A and 206-B** are enacted to read:

44 **§206-A. State flag**

46 The official flag of the State is the flag adopted by the
48 Legislature in Public Law 1901, chapter 233. The Secretary of
50 State shall issue specifications giving proportions, coloring and
 exact design details for the flag. The Secretary of State shall
 require a model flag to be made and kept in the office of the
 Secretary of State. Existing stocks of flags may be used as the
 official flag. All new flags purchased after the effective date
 of this section must use the design specified under this section.

52 **§206-B. Governor's flag**

54 The official flag of the Governor is blue, of the same color
56 as the blue field in the flag of the United States and of the
58 following design: in the center of the flag embroidered, printed
 or appliqued, the same on both sides of the flag, the coat of
 arms of the State in proportionate size; and the edges trimmed
 with knotted fringe of yellow in proportionate size. The flag
 may include a cord with tassels composed of white and blue

2 strands attached to the staff at the spearhead. The Adjutant
3 General shall issue specifications and proportions for the
4 Governor's flag. A flag made in accordance with this section
5 must be kept in the office of the Adjutant General as a model.

6 **Sec. 5. 1 MRSA §207** is repealed.

8 **Sec. 6. 1 MRSA §207-A** is enacted to read:

10 **§207-A. Merchant and marine flag**

12 The official merchant and marine flag of the State is the
13 same as the official state flag specified in section 206-A.

14 **Sec. 7. 37-B MRSA §384**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 460, §3, is
15 amended to read:

18 **§384. Flag to be carried**

20 The flag of the State to be carried by the National Guard
21 shall ~~be~~ is the same as the flag described in Title 1, section
22 206 ~~206-B~~, with addition of a scroll in red below the coat of
23 arms of the State bearing the inscription, "Maine National Guard."
24

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill establishes as the official state seal the seal in
30 use by the Secretary of State on January 1, 1997 and provides
31 that any documents previously sealed with that seal are deemed
32 official. The seal in use on January 1, 1997 has been in use
33 since 1919 but has never been officially adopted.
34

36 The bill establishes the official coat of arms in the same
37 design as the state seal but without the encircling ring. The
38 coat of arms currently in use differs significantly from the last
39 officially adopted version in 1820. This bill recognizes the
40 coat of arms as it is currently used.

42 The bill establishes as the official state flag the flag
43 adopted by the Legislature in 1901. It varies substantially from
44 the flag currently in use that is based on a design that was
45 adopted by the Legislature in 1909. The 1901 flag has a buff
46 background, with a blue star in the left corner and a large pine
47 tree in the middle.

48 The bill establishes as the official flag of the Governor,
the design currently in use as the state flag. This flag would

2 also be carried by the Maine National Guard with the addition of
an inscription "Maine National Guard."

4 The bill provides that the official merchant and marine flag
must be the same as the official state flag. The current
6 official merchant and marine flag is seldom used.