

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1657

S.P. 538

In Senate, March 25, 1997

**An Act to Establish the Interstate Economic Development Commission  
for the Northern New England States.**

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Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development 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 President LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Senators: HARRIMAN of Cumberland, JENKINS of Androscoggin,  
MacKINNON of York, PINGREE of Knox, RAND of Cumberland, Representatives: VIGUE  
of Winslow, WHEELER of Eliot, WRIGHT of Berwick.

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

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Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 557 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 557

INTERSTATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
FOR THE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND STATES

§21301. Commission

1. Establishment. The Interstate Economic Development Commission for the Northern New England States, referred to in this chapter as the "commission," is created to examine and promote economic development throughout the member states set forth in subsection 2.

2. Member states. The member states are Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to the extent that these states have enacted legislation substantially the same as this chapter.

3. Members. The commission consists of the following 15 members:

A. The governor of each member state, or the governor's designee;

B. The commissioner of the state department of each member state with jurisdiction over economic development, or the commissioner's designee;

C. Three public members, one appointed by each governor of each member state; and

D. Six legislative members, appointed by the presiding officer of each House of the Legislature of each member state.

4. Terms. Members of the commission who are governors, commissioners or legislative members serve during the term of office for which they were elected or appointed. Public members serve 4-year terms. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

5. Chair. The position of chair rotates among the governors of the member states, or their designees, on an annual basis. Before or at the first meeting of the commission, the governors shall establish the order of rotation.

6. Compensation. Members are not entitled to compensation.

2            7. Meetings. The commission shall meet at least 6 times  
each year.

4            **§21302. Duties of the commission**

6            1. Economic development. The commission shall gather and  
8 review information regarding economic development and methods of  
enhancing economic development in member states. The information  
10 may be gathered from any source, including the governors' offices  
and the departments with jurisdiction over economic development  
12 of each member state.

14           2. Tourism. The commission shall gather and review  
information regarding the promotion of tourism and methods of  
16 expanding access to travel opportunities among the member states.

18           3. Legislation. The commission may develop and recommend  
legislation for introduction in each member state that promotes  
20 economic development and tourism.

22           **Sec. 2. Effective date.** This Act takes effect when the Attorney  
General notifies the Office of the Revisor of Statutes that New  
24 Hampshire and Vermont have enacted concurrent legislation  
establishing the Interstate Economic Development Commission for  
26 the Northern New England States. Initial members of the  
commission must be appointed within 30 days after this Act takes  
28 effect. The governors of the member states shall set the date  
for the first meeting of the commission.

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32    **SUMMARY**

34           This bill establishes the framework for creation of a  
commission of members from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to  
36 investigate the opportunities to enhance economic development and  
tourism among these states. The commission comes into being when  
38 similar legislation is enacted in New Hampshire and Vermont.