

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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H.P. 1914

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DATE: April 24, 2000

(Filing No. S-722)

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1914, "Joint Study Order to
Create a Committee to Study Further Decriminalization of the
Criminal Laws of Maine"

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Amend the order by striking out everything from the first
indented paragraph to the end and inserting in its place the
following:

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'ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Committee to Study
the Further Decriminalization of the Criminal Laws of Maine is
established as follows.

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1. Committee established. The Committee to Study Further
Decriminalization of the Criminal Laws of Maine, referred to in
this order as the "committee," is established.

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2. Membership. The committee consists of 5 members
appointed as follows:

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A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of
the Senate; and

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B. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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3. Appointments; chairs; convening of committee. All
appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this order. The appointing authorities shall
notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon
making their appointments. The first-named Senate member is the
Senate chair and the first-named House member is the House

SENATE AMENDMENT

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1914

chair. When the appointment of all members is complete, the committee chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the committee no later than June 30, 2000.

4. Duties. The committee shall study further decriminalization of the criminal laws of Maine. In determining whether to decriminalize criminal laws, the committee shall consider:

A. Whether it is appropriate to classify the specific prohibited conduct as criminal, especially as compared to other prohibited conduct;

B. Whether the penalties and punishments are proportioned to the offense as required under the Constitution of Maine; and

C. The consequences of decriminalizing specific crimes.

5. Staff assistance. Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee.

6. Reimbursement. The committee members are entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee.

7. Report. The committee shall submit its report with any accompanying legislation to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature by November 1, 2000. If the committee requires a limited extension of time to conclude its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

8. Committee budget. The committee chairs, with assistance from the committee staff, shall administer the committee budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the committee shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for approval. The committee may not incur expenses that would result in the committee's exceeding its approved budget.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the joint order. It changes the date when the Committee to Study Further Decriminalization of the

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1914

Criminal Laws of Maine must convene from no later than May 1,
2000 to June 30, 2000.

SPONSORED BY:

(Senator PINGREE)

COUNTY: Knox

SENATE AMENDMENT