

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 459

S.P. 135

In Senate, February 1, 2001

**An Act to Expand the Authority of Maine Prosecutors to Coordinate the Prosecution of Drug Cases.**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary 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 DAVIS of Piscataquis.  
Cosponsored by Representative WINSOR of Norway and  
Senator McALEVEY of York, Representatives: KASPRZAK of Newport, LESSARD of  
Topsham, PERKINS of Penobscot, TRACY of Rome, WATERHOUSE of Bridgton.

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

2

**Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2955, sub-§7**, as repealed and replaced by PL  
4 1993, c. 680, Pt. B, §3, is amended to read:

6 **7. Task force attorneys.** The Attorney General, the United  
States Attorney for the District of Maine and the respective  
8 district attorneys may assign as many of their assistants and  
special assistants as they determine to be appropriate to each of  
10 the task forces or to the agency generally. The attorneys must  
be available to the agency officers for purposes of ongoing  
12 consultation and advice on the propriety and legal consequences  
of methods of investigation and are responsible for coordinating,  
14 with the commanders and supervisors, the prosecutorial and  
investigative priorities of the task forces. ~~The--Attorney  
16 General--shall--appoint--one--assistant--attorney--general--as--a  
full-time--coordinator--of--drug--prosecution--matters.---That  
18 assistant--attorney--general--is--responsible--to--coordinate--the  
efforts-of-each-of-the-attorneys-assigned-to-the-agency.~~

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**SUMMARY**

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The Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2955 requires  
the Attorney General to appoint one assistant attorney general to  
26 supervise drug prosecution. This bill repeals the specific  
requirement. The purpose of the change is to allow the Attorney  
28 General to fully coordinate limited prosecutorial resources by  
recognizing that supervisory responsibility can be performed by  
30 either district attorneys or the Attorney General or their  
respective designees.