

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 714

H.P. 559

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

**An Act to Authorize a Legislative Technical Advisory Office to Benefit
from the Experience of Retired Scientific and Technical Experts.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator SHOREY of Washington and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, COTE of Lewiston, COWGER of Hallowell,
HATCH of Skowhegan, HUTTON of Bowdoinham, MAYO of Bath, PARADIS of
Frenchville, SULLIVAN of Biddeford.

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §163-B is enacted to read:

§163-B. Technical Advisory Office

1. Office authorized. In addition to the legislative staff services under section 163-A, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall maintain the Technical Advisory Office when directed by the Legislative Council.

2. Structure. The Technical Advisory Office consists of retired volunteers and one 1/2-time legislative staff person who serves as the technical coordinator. These volunteers are not entitled to compensation or expenses. The volunteers are selected based upon their technical or managerial experience in government, industry or education and their expertise in particular existing or potential legislative issues regarding technology or science.

3. Function. The Technical Advisory Office shall provide unbiased and nonpartisan research, analysis and recommendations on technical or scientific issues as directed by the technical coordinator.

4. Coordination with retirees' organization. The Executive Director and the technical coordinator shall actively seek input from and coordinate with statewide organizations representing retirees in providing services through the Technical Advisory Office.

SUMMARY

This bill, modeled after an initiative begun in Delaware in 1999, authorizes a Technical Advisory Office, under the auspices of the Legislative Council, to make use of the technical and scientific expertise of retired volunteers in the State in advising the Legislature.