

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2220

DATE: 11-13-02

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "H" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1746, L.D. 2220, Bill, "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2003"

Amend the amendment by inserting after Part RR the following:

PART SS

Sec. SS-1. Moratorium on hiring. A moratorium on hiring is in effect until January 1, 2005 for all positions in the executive branch that are vacant on or become vacant after the effective date of this Part. Emergency exceptions to this provision may be approved by each department or agency head with the advice and recommendations from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget and the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, as long as the number of vacancies at no time falls below 300. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources shall issue a memorandum outlining procedures for making emergency exceptions.

Sec. SS-2. Vacancies assessment. The Governor shall submit a plan assessing the vacancies in State Government to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 30, 2004. The plan must include a detailed plan for eliminating or filling each of the vacancies and must be accompanied by legislation necessary to implement the plan.'

Further amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

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FISCAL NOTE

This amendment will have no net effect on the General Fund budget for fiscal year 2002-03.

Extending the current hiring freeze that expires at the end of fiscal year 2002-03 to January 1, 2005 for executive branch positions may create General Fund savings in fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05. The amount of savings and the impact on agency ability to carry out required functions can not be determined at this time.

SUMMARY

This amendment proposes to carry on the hiring freeze established by Executive Order Number 05 #FY 01/02 for executive branch employees until January 1, 2005. It includes similar provisions for emergency exceptions but limits those exceptions so that the number of vacancies may not fall below 300. The amendment requires the Governor to submit legislation and an assessment plan detailing the elimination or filling of vacancies to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs in January 2004.

SPONSORED BY: *Leo A. Snowe Mello*
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