

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



STATE LAW LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 236

H.P. 190

House of Representatives, January 23, 2009

An Act To Establish the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERCY of Phippsburg.
Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, AUSTIN of Gray, AYOTTE of Caswell, BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, BLANCHARD of Old Town, BLODGETT of Augusta, BOLAND of Sanford, BRIGGS of Mexico, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CHASE of Wells, CLARK of Millinocket, CLEARY of Houlton, COHEN of Portland, DILL of Cape Elizabeth, FITTS of Pittsfield, FLETCHER of Winslow, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GILES of Belfast, HAYES of Buckfield, HILL of York, HINCK of Portland, HUNT of Buxton, JONES of Mount Vernon, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEWIN of Eliot, MARTIN of Orono, MAZUREK of Rockland, PETERSON of Rumford, PIEH of Bremen, Speaker PINGREE of North Haven, PRESCOTT of Topsham, SMITH of Monmouth, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, THERIAULT of Madawaska, VALENTINO of Saco, VAN WIE of New Gloucester, WAGNER of Lyman, WATSON of Bath, WELSH of Rockport, Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, BARTLETT of Cumberland, BOWMAN of York, BRYANT of Oxford, GOODALL of Sagadahoc, HOBBS of York, JACKSON of Aroostook, SIMPSON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 371-A** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 371-A**

4 **PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

5 **§7029. Commission established**

6 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, established by section 12004-J,
7 subsection 17 and referred to in this chapter as "the commission," is an independent
8 commission. The commission shall promote, carry out and coordinate programs designed
9 to improve opportunities for women in the State.

10 **§7030. Membership**

11 The commission consists of 17 members, including 9 appointed by the Governor, 4
12 appointed by the President of the Senate and 4 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives. In making these appointments, the Governor, the President of the
14 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall consider and appoint
15 residents of the State who have a knowledge of problems facing women in the State and
16 who provide leadership in programs or activities that are carried out to improve
17 opportunities for women. The members of the commission must be chosen from
18 throughout the State and must include but are not limited to representatives of minority,
19 low-income, youth and elderly groups. The President of the Senate shall appoint at least
20 one member who represents the interests of minorities. The Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives shall appoint at least one member who represents the interests of the
22 elderly. The Governor shall appoint at least one member who represents the interests of
23 low-income people and at least one member who represents the interests of youth.

24 **§7030-A. Term of office**

25 Members of the commission are appointed for 2-year terms, except that, of those
26 members first appointed, 4 appointed by the Governor, 2 appointed by the President of
27 the Senate and 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House must be appointed for one-year
28 terms. The term of office of each member must be designated at the time of appointment.

29 Members of the commission may serve after the expiration of their terms until their
30 successors have taken office. The Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker
31 of the House may terminate the membership of their respective appointees for good
32 cause. The reason for the termination must be communicated in writing to a member
33 whose membership is terminated. The membership of any member of the commission
34 must be terminated if the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without
35 communicating good cause to the chair of the commission.

36 **§7030-B. Vacancies**

37 A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for
38 which the member's predecessor was appointed serves only for the remainder of that term

1 and must be appointed by the same appointing authority. Any vacancy on the
2 commission does not affect its powers.

3 **§7030-C. Chair**

4 The Governor shall select from among the members of the commission a chair and a
5 vice-chair, both of whom shall serve for one year. These selections must be made each
6 year prior to the first meeting of the commission. The chair is authorized to appoint
7 subcommittees.

8 **§7030-D. Powers and duties**

9 The commission shall advise and consult with the Governor and the Legislature
10 about, and assist them in improving, opportunities for women in the State by:

11 1. Research. Carrying out research programs necessary to determine the status of
12 women in the State;

13 2. Activities. Promoting and coordinating activities on state and local levels
14 designed to meet the problems of women in the State;

15 3. Advocate. Serving as an advocate for women in making recommendations on
16 proposed budgetary, legislative and policy actions to the Governor, the Legislature and
17 other officials of the State and the Federal Government with respect to state and federal
18 policies, programs and other activities affecting or relating to women in the State;

19 4. Information. Informing the public about the presence or absence of opportunities
20 for women in the State;

21 5. Meetings. Conducting public hearings, conferences, workshops and other such
22 meetings to obtain information about, discuss and publicize the needs of and solutions to
23 the problems of women;

24 6. Reports. Making a biennial report to the Governor and the Legislature
25 concerning the work and interests of the commission; and

26 7. Executive director. Establishing and filling the position of the Executive
27 Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

28 **§7030-E. Meetings; compensation**

29 The commission shall meet at the call of the chair not less than 4 times each year.
30 Members are compensated as provided in chapter 379.

31 **§7030-F. Staff; funding**

32 The commission is authorized to employ staff and consultants and to accept and use
33 any funding available to it in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

34 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§17 is enacted to read:**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

17.

Women Permanent Expenses Only 5 MRSA §7029
Commission on the
Status of Women

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women based on the law that created the Maine Commission for Women, which was repealed by Public Law 1991, chapter 622, Part S, sections 5 and 18.