

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
124TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 876, L.D. 1257, Bill, "An Act To Require Legislative Consultation and Approval Prior to Committing the State to Binding International Trade Agreements"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 in subsection 1 by striking out all of paragraph B (page 1, lines 8 to 15 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'B. "Trade agreement" means an agreement reached between the United States Government and any other country, countries or other international political entity or entities that proposes to regulate trade, procurement, services or investment among the parties to the agreement. "Trade agreement" includes, but is not limited to, any agreements under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, all regional free trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central America Free Trade Agreement and all bilateral agreements entered into by the United States, as well as requests for binding agreement received from the United States Trade Representative.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 1, lines 16 to 20 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'2. State official prohibited from binding the State. If the United States Government provides the State with the opportunity to consent to or reject binding the State to a trade agreement, or a provision within a trade agreement, then an official of the State, including but not limited to the Governor, may not bind the State or give consent to the United States Government to bind the State in those circumstances, except as provided in this section.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 in subsection 3 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 22 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "agreement" the following: 'provision'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 in subsection 3 in the 5th line (page 1, line 25 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Representatives" the following: ', the Maine International Trade Center'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 in subsection 4 in the first line (page 1, line 28 in  
2 L.D.) by inserting after the following: "commission" the following: ', in consultation  
3 with the Maine International Trade Center,'

4 Amend the bill in section 1 in §13 in subsection 4 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 30 in  
5 L.D.) by inserting after the following: "including" the following: 'any necessary'

## 6 SUMMARY

7 This amendment broadens the definition of "trade agreement" and clarifies that the  
8 legislative approval of trade agreements may occur only when the United States  
9 Government provides the State with the opportunity to consent to or reject binding the  
10 State to a trade agreement or a provision within a trade agreement. It also requires the  
11 Governor to provide the Maine International Trade Center with a copy of any  
12 communication concerning a trade agreement provision when it is received by the State,  
13 and it adds the requirement that the Citizen Trade Policy Commission consult with the  
14 Maine International Trade Center when it reviews and analyzes trade agreements.

## FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED (See attached)



# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1257

LR 1501(02)

## An Act To Require Legislative Consultation and Approval Prior to Committing the State to Binding International Trade Agreements

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"  
Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Assuming that the review by the Citizen Trade Policy Commission required by this bill could occur within the existing number of budgeted meetings and the drafting of the report by the legislature staff would not be while the Legislature is in session, this bill can be implemented without an increase to budgeted resources.