

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1335

S.P. 412

In Senate, March 29, 2011

**An Act Relating to the Authority of the Legislative Council over the
Fiscal Note Process**

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§18**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 43, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **18. Out-of-state travel report.** To submit to the joint standing committee of the
5 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a quarterly report
6 on out-of-state travel activity of the Legislature. The report must be submitted within 15
7 days after the end of each quarter and must include, for each individual who has been
8 authorized to travel, the destination, purpose and cost by funding source of each trip; ~~and~~

9 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§19**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 43, §3, is amended to
10 read:

11 **19. Legislative information available through the Internet.** To make the
12 following information available through the Internet: legislative documents, committee
13 hearing schedules, work session schedules, status of legislation, voting records of
14 Legislators, the laws of Maine, study reports and reports of other study groups established
15 by the Legislature and any other information designated by the Legislative Council; and

16 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§20** is enacted to read:

17 **20. Fiscal notes.** To oversee and ensure accuracy in the fiscal note process and the
18 development of fiscal notes of legislation sponsored by a member of the Legislature. The
19 Legislative Council shall require the Office of Fiscal and Program Review to provide a
20 sponsor of legislation with:

- 21 A. Review and comment periods relating to the prepared fiscal notes;
- 22 B. The assumptions on which the fiscal note is based;
- 23 C. The specific revenues, savings and costs associated with the legislation;
- 24 D. Opportunities to meet with any agency, person or organization providing
25 information relating to the fiscal notes;
- 26 E. The opportunity for the sponsor to indicate in a fiscal note that the sponsor
27 disagrees with the fiscal note and the reasons for the disagreement; and
- 28 F. The impact of any increased or decreased federal funds associated with
29 legislation, including the impact on employment, salaries and benefits and tax
30 revenues.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill requires the Legislative Council to provide members of the Legislature with
33 a more open process and more information relating to fiscal notes and the fiscal note
34 process. Legislators must be given an opportunity to question fiscal notes before they
35 become official and to meet with a person, agency or organization that contributes
36 information regarding a fiscal note. If the sponsor disagrees with the official fiscal note,

1 the fiscal note must include a note to that effect and the reasons for the sponsor's
2 disagreement.