

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 339

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H.P. 244

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Require Public Hearings by the Legislature To Be  
Recorded and Posted on the Internet**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Winterport.  
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and  
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, GOODE of Bangor, KORNFIELD of Bangor,  
VEROW of Brewer, Senator: HASKELL of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§19**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 43, §3, is amended to  
3 read:

4 **19. Legislative information available through the Internet.** To make the  
5 following information available through the Internet: legislative documents, committee  
6 hearing schedules, work session schedules, status of legislation, voting records of  
7 Legislators, the laws of Maine, study reports and reports of other study groups established  
8 by the Legislature and any other information designated by the Legislative Council.  
9 Beginning January 1, 2014, the Legislative Council shall arrange to record all joint  
10 standing committee public hearings and make these records accessible to the public on  
11 the Legislature's website within 72 hours of the public hearing. A committee may not  
12 hold a work session on a bill unless the public hearing record of the bill is accessible to  
13 the public on the Legislature's website. The public hearing record must be a permanent  
14 record in the form of a written transcript, audio recording, video recording or other  
15 electronic recording. The State Archivist shall assist and advise the Legislative Council  
16 in the establishment of records management programs for the public hearing records  
17 pursuant to Title 5, section 95, subsection 7.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires that all joint standing committee public hearings are recorded and  
20 made accessible to the public as a written transcript, audio recording, video recording or  
21 other electronic recording on the Legislature's website within 72 hours of a public hearing  
22 beginning January 1, 2014. A committee may not hold a work session on a bill unless the  
23 record is available on the Legislature's website. The State Archivist is required to assist  
24 and advise the Legislative Council in establishing a records management program for  
25 committee public hearings.