

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1939

S.P. 788

In Senate, May 16, 2023

**An Act to Amend the Membership of the Maine-Canadian
Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern
Canada Legislative Commission**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New
4 England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission have not met recently and have a
5 backlog of business to address; and

6 **Whereas,** making new appointments to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory
7 Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission will cause
8 the commissions to meet and act on unfinished business; and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

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

14 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §227,** as corrected by RR 1991, c. 1, §1, is amended to read:

15 **§227. Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission**

16 The Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, as authorized by Title 5,
17 section 12004-K, subsection 10, ~~shall consist~~ consists of 8 12 members, all of whom ~~shall~~
18 must be citizens of this State. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 4 6 members, 2 for a
19 term of one year and 2 4 who must be members of the House of Representatives and who
20 ~~shall~~ each hold office from the date of appointment until the term of election to the
21 Legislature expires. The President of the Senate shall appoint 4 6 members, 2 for a term of
22 one year and 2 4 who must be Senators and who ~~shall~~ each hold office from the date of
23 appointment until the term of election to the Legislature expires. At least one member
24 appointed by the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the Speaker of the
25 House ~~shall~~ must be fluent in the French language. The members appointed must equally
26 represent the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. In the event
27 of the death or resignation of any member, the vacancy ~~shall~~ must be filled for the
28 remainder of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

29 Members ~~shall~~ must be compensated as provided in Title 5, chapter 379. ~~Four~~ Six
30 members ~~shall~~ constitute a quorum. The commission shall designate one of its members as
31 ~~chairman~~ chair.

32 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §231, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 475, §24, is further
33 amended to read:

34 **1. Commission.** The New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission, as
35 established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 11, and in this chapter called "the
36 "commission," consists of 4 8 members from Maine, together with the same number of
37 members appointed according to the laws of each of the other member jurisdictions.

38 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §231, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 475, §24, is further
39 amended to read:

40 **2. Membership.** The members of the commission from Maine are the 2 4 Senators
41 and the 2 4 members of the House of Representatives who are appointed to the Maine-
42 Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission pursuant to section 227.

1 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
2 takes effect when approved.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill increases the membership of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory
5 Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission and
6 requires the members to equally represent each of the 2 parties holding the largest number
7 of seats in the Legislature.