

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 275.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES for the establishment of the office of State
Auditor.

Our appropriations are now very large. In former years
2 when the appropriations and expenditures were compara-
3 tively small the Committee of Accounts of the Governor's
4 Council could give all bills careful attention. It is now
5 impossible. The council meets but once a month and at
6 each meeting have many duties to perform. They cannot
7 give attention to the details of accounts. Further, if a
8 bill is rendered the day after the council adjourns it can-
9 not be audited for thirty days and an injustice is done to
10 the state's auditor.

The proposed law should provide that the auditor shall
12 be an expert accountant and that he shall keep a complete
13 set of books.

The council changes every two years and many old and
15 rejected bills are presented which a new council can know
16 nothing about and thousands of dollars would be saved in
17 this class of accounts alone.

It now costs at least \$700 a year for a committee to
19 examine the accounts of the state treasurer. This expense
20 would be avoided by the appointment of an auditor.

There is a great looseness in the expenditure of contin-
22 gent funds in the hands of state officers, boards of trus-
23 tees, commissions, etc. A careful examination of all
24 bills rendered to be paid out of these funds would save
25 the state thousands of dollars.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 26, 1895.

Reported by Mr. HIGGINS, from Committee on the Judiciary, and
on his motion ordered printed and referred to the next legislature.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*