

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 264

House of Representatives, February 26, 1919.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Barnes of Houlton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

AN ACT Providing for the Preparation of the State Budget; Creating a Committee on Budget; Prescribing Its Powers and Duties; Making an Appropriation to Defray the Expenses of This Committee; and Repealing Sections Ninety-two, Ninety-three, Ninety-four and Ninety-five of Chapter Two of the Revised Statutes of Maine.

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

Section 1. The Governor, State Auditor, State Treasurer,
2 the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and Fi-
3 nancial Affairs on the part of the Senate and the chairman
4 of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

5 on the part of the House of the Maine Legislature are
6 hereby constituted a committee to be known as the com-
7 mittee on budget. In case of inability to serve on the part
8 of any of said persons the vacancy shall be filled by the
9 Governor by appointment from the membership of the
10 Legislature. The Governor shall be the chairman of the
11 committee and the Auditor its secretary. The board shall
12 meet and organize in the executive chamber at the State
13 Capitol, on the third Tuesday in July, nineteen hundred
14 twenty. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the com-
15 mittee and shall record them in a suitable book to be kept
16 for that purpose in the office of the State Auditor. The
17 minutes of the committee shall be a public record and
18 shall at all times be open to public inspection. The mem-
19 bers of the committee shall be paid the necessary expenses
20 incurred in the performance of their duties under this act,
21 and in addition thereto the chairman of the Committee on
22 Appropriations and Financial Affairs on the part of the
23 Senate, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations
24 and Financial Affairs on the part of the House, and any
25 member of the committee who shall serve by appoint-
26 ment of the Governor shall receive five dollars a day for
27 the time actually spent in the performance of their duties
28 hereunder while the Legislature is not in session. The sec-
29 retary of the committee is hereby authorized to expend
30 such sums as he may require for clerical assistance in carry-
31 ing out the provisions of this act, not to exceed five hundred
32 dollars in each biennial period.

Sect. 2. During the month of October in each even year
2 there shall be filed with the secretary of the committee on
3 budget by each individual, by the heads of departments,
4 state institutions, commissions and boards of trustees, who
5 are intrusted with the expenditure of public money, upon
6 forms prepared and furnished by the committee, written
7 statements showing in detail the amounts appropriated
8 and expended for the current biennial fiscal period ending
9 on the thirtieth day of June preceding, and a written esti-
10 mate of the necessary expenditures of the department, in-
11 stitution, commission or board, for each of the two follow-
12 ing years ending on June thirtieth, together with the esti-
13 mated income, if any, arranged in proper manner in detail
14 by classification and by proper summaries as may be re-
15 quired by the committee. A written statement showing
16 the reason for all estimated expenditures, other than fixed
17 charges, shall be filed with statement of appropriations and
18 expenditures.

Sect. 3. During the month of October in each even year
2 there shall be filed with the secretary of the committee,
3 by every corporation, not including municipal corporations,
4 every association, bond and institution, whether public
5 or private, receiving or requesting an appropriation from
6 the state, upon forms prepared and furnished by the com-
7 mittee, a statement in detail of all money, with the reason
8 therefor, for which any general or special appropriation
9 is desired at the ensuing session of the Legislature by such
10 corporation, association or institution, and such statement

11 of desired appropriations as well as any reports required
12 shall be and remain public records.

Sect. 4. The committee shall meet on the third Tuesday
2 in November of each even year at the State Capitol, and
3 shall thereupon proceed to prepare estimates, for the budget,
4 of the amounts required to be appropriated by the
5 Legislature for the conduct of the business of the state in
6 all its offices, institutions, departments and undertakings
7 for the biennial fiscal period next ensuing, provided that
8 the estimates for the first fiscal period shall be for the in-
9 terim from the January first following to June thirtieth
10 of the year after the next regular session of the Legisla-
11 ture, and thereafterward the biennial fiscal period shall be
12 from June thirtieth to June thirtieth of odd years. Before
13 making up such estimates the committee shall examine
14 all statements and requests for appropriations on file with
15 its secretary, and shall afford to the officers, boards and
16 commissions presenting such statements, and making such
17 requests, reasonable opportunity for explanation in regard
18 thereto, and whenever requested shall grant to such offi-
19 cers, boards or commissions and to citizens having infor-
20 mation a hearing thereon. All such hearings shall be open
21 to the public. The committee or any member or mem-
22 bers thereof, may upon vote of the committee visit any
23 department, institution, or undertaking for which an ap-
24 propriation is requested, for the purpose of examination
25 and investigation, and shall also hold such public hearings

26 as in its judgment may be deemed advantageous for the
27 purpose of preparing such estimates. As a part of the
28 budget shall be included an estimate of the revenues of the
29 state expected to be received during the ensuing biennial
30 fiscal period, together with a report of the expenditure of
31 state funds during the current biennial fiscal period in de-
32 tail, so far as advisable. Said estimates, together with
33 such recommendations, reasons and explanations with re-
34 gard to such estimates as shall be deemed necessary by
35 the committee, shall be the budget for the ensuing biennial
36 fiscal period.

Sect. 5. The committee shall transmit to the Legisla-
2 ture, not later than the fifth day of the first session thereof
3 the budget as above, and upon request of any committee
4 of the Legislature the secretary of the committee on budget
5 shall transmit to such committee of the Legislature all
6 statements, estimates and requests which were filed with
7 said secretary by officers, boards and commissions as re-
8 quired by sections two and three of this act, or copies there-
9 of.

Sect. 6. In making up the estimates, constituting the
2 budget, the committee shall, in connection therewith and
3 as a part thereof submit an estimate in detail, or a general
4 estimate in any instance where it is impracticable to give
5 specific items, subdivided under appropriate headings, of
6 such sums as may be deemed necessary to defray the sev-
7 eral charges and expenses of the public service for the

8 ensuing biennial fiscal period. This estimate shall also
9 include such sums as may be deemed necessary for charit-
10 able and benevolent institutions, new buildings or the ren-
11 ovation of old buildings of state institutions, and for such
12 other purposes for which public money may be properly
13 appropriated. It shall be accompanied by a statement
14 showing the total valuation of taxable property in the
15 state as compiled by the board of State Assessors and
16 the rate of taxation necessary to produce approximately
17 the revenue required to meet such appropriations. It shall
18 also show the estimated income of the state for said biennial
19 fiscal period from sources other than direct taxation.

Sect. 7. There is hereby appropriated out of any money
2 in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum
3 of two thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be
4 required to carry out the purposes of this act.

Sect. 8. Sections ninety-two, ninety-three, ninety-four
2 and ninety-five of chapter 2 of the revised statutes are
3 hereby repealed.