

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

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House Document

No. 361

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H. P. 1070            House of Representatives, March 9, 1927.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Littlefield of Kennebunk.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN

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RESOLVE in Relation to a New Revision of the Statutes and  
Providing for the Appointment of a Commissioner to Report  
to the Next Legislature.

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Whereas, there has been no provision made for the revision of the general and public laws of the state since the enactment of chapter two hundred thirty-seven of the resolves of nineteen hundred fifteen, and

Whereas, since the revised statutes of nineteen hundred sixteen were printed, each legislature has enacted hundreds of new laws, now contained in five large, and one small, additional volumes, and the laws of the present session will require the publishing of another volume, and

Whereas, the public laws are now difficult to find, and in

many cases impossible to understand due to additions, contradictions, omissions, repetitions and other imperfections as appear in the present volume of the revised statutes and subsequent laws, and

Whereas, if provision is now made, a revision cannot be completed until nineteen hundred twenty-nine,

Now therefore, be it Resolved,

That the governor, by and with the advice and consent of  
2 the council, shall appoint a commissioner, learned in the  
3 law, whose duty it shall be to revise, collate, arrange and  
4 consolidate the general and public laws now in force and  
5 such as shall be enacted at the present session of the legis-  
6 lature, preserving unchanged the order and arrangement of  
7 the present revised code, and retaining the phraseology  
8 thereof, except so far as may be necessary to vary it by  
9 incorporating existing laws therewith; and such subsequent  
10 laws as are in force at the time of the revision shall be  
11 incorporated into the revised code in appropriate chapters,  
12 and sections thereof, in language concise and intelligible and  
13 of the same intent, effect and construction; omitting from  
14 the new revision of the statutes all such parts of the revised  
15 statutes of nineteen hundred sixteen as have been repealed  
16 or superseded; adding references to all decisions interpret-  
17 ing the statutes and constitution which appear in the Maine  
18 reports and to all decisions interpreting the constitution of  
19 the United States which appear in the United States Su-  
20 preme Court reports; correcting the notes, annotations and

21 citations of all chapters and sections, and preparing notes  
22 and references for new sections; with a copious and accu-  
23 rate general index, and reference at the end of each chapter  
24 in syllabus form to all other chapters and sections in which  
25 the same subject matter is treated; also suggesting with  
26 proper distinguishing marks such contradictions, omissions,  
27 repetitions and imperfections as appear in the present re-  
28 vised statutes and in subsequent laws, and the mode in  
29 which the same may be best codified, reconciled, supplied,  
30 amended and corrected.

Resolved, That the foregoing work be performed by said  
2 commissioner under the supervision of the members of a  
3 joint select committee of the present legislature, consisting  
4 of five members, who are also members of the legal pro-  
5 fession, two to be appointed by the president of the senate  
6 and three to be appointed by the speaker of the house, which  
7 joint select committee are hereby constituted a committee  
8 to sit during recess of the legislature for that purpose, in  
9 order to perfect a complete revision and report to the next  
10 legislature.

Resolved, That said commissioner under the supervision  
2 of said legislative committee, shall complete said revision,  
3 and on or before the first day of the regular session of the  
4 next legislature shall cause five hundred copies of his revision  
5 and report with the constitution of the United States and  
6 of this state to be printed and bound in paper or board  
7 covers for the use of the eighty-fourth legislature.

Resolved, That the governor and council be and are hereby  
2 authorized to arrange and fix details for the services, com-  
3 pensation and expenses of said commissioner and the ex-  
4 pense of said legislative committee. In the event of a va-  
5 cancy occurring in the office of the commissioner by death,  
6 resignation or incapacity to fill the office, the governor with  
7 the advice and consent of the council shall fill said vacancy.

Resolved, That for the foregoing purposes there be and  
2 hereby is appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury  
3 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-five thousand  
4 dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be paid  
5 on warrants drawn by the governor with the advice and  
6 consent of the council, in such amounts and at such times  
7 as the governor and council may approve. Said appropria-  
8 tion to be available at any and all times between the time  
9 this act shall be effective and June thirty, nineteen hundred  
10 and twenty-nine.