

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# EIGHTY - EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 448**

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S. P. 264

In the Senate, February 10, 1937.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Goudy of Cumberland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-SEVEN

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### **AN ACT to Establish an Unpaid Commission to Facilitate the Cooperation of This State With Other Units of Government.**

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

**Sec. 1. Senate committee on interstate cooperation, established.** There is hereby established a standing committee of the senate of this state, to be officially known as the Senate Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and to consist of 5 senators. The members and the chairman of this committee shall be designated in the same manner as is customary in the case of the members and chairmen of other standing committees of the senate. In addition to the regular members, the president of the senate shall be ex-officio an honorary non-voting member of this committee.

**Sec. 2. House committee on interstate cooperation, established.** There is hereby established a similar standing committee of the house of representatives of this state, to be officially known as the House Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and to consist of 5 members of the house of representatives. The members and the chairman of this committee shall be designated in the same manner as is customary in the case of the members and chairmen of other standing committees of the house of representatives. In addition to the regular members, the speaker of the

house of representatives shall be ex-officio an honorary non-voting member of this committee.

**Sec. 3. Governor's committee on interstate cooperation, established.**

There is hereby established a committee of administrative officials and employees of this state to be officially known as the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and to consist of 5 members. Its members shall be: the budget officer, ex-officio; the attorney general, ex-officio; and 2 other administrative officials or employees to be designated by the governor. If there is uncertainty as to the identity of any of the ex-officio members of this committee, the governor shall determine the question, and his determination and designation shall be conclusive. The governor shall appoint one of the 5 members of this committee as its chairman. In addition to the regular members, the governor shall be ex-officio an honorary non-voting member of this committee.

**Sec. 4. Maine Commission on Interstate Cooperation, established.**

There is hereby established the Maine Commission on Interstate Cooperation. This commission shall be composed of 15 regular members, namely:

The 5 members of the Senate Committee on Interstate Cooperation,

The 5 members of the House Committee on Interstate Cooperation, and

The 5 members of the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation.

The Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be ex-officio honorary non-voting members of this Commission. The Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Interstate Cooperation shall be ex-officio Chairman of this Commission.

**Sec. 5. Terms of office.** The said standing committee of the senate and said standing committee of the house of representatives shall function during the regular sessions of the legislature and also during the interim periods between such sessions; their members shall serve until their successors are designated; and they shall respectively constitute for this state the Senate Council and House Council of the American Legislators' Association. The incumbency of each administrative member of this commission shall extend until the 1st day of February next following his appointment, and thereafter until his successor is appointed.

**Sec. 6. Functions of commission.** It shall be the function of this commission:

(1) To carry forward the participation of this state as a member of the Council of State Governments.

(2) To encourage and assist the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial officials and employees of this state to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by conference, and otherwise, with officials and employees of the other states, of the Federal Government, and of local units of government.

(3) To endeavor to advance cooperation between this state and other units of government whenever it seems advisable to do so by formulating proposals for, and by facilitating:

- (a) The adoption of compacts,
- (b) The enactment of uniform or reciprocal statutes,
- (c) The adoption of uniform or reciprocal administrative rules and regulations,
- (d) The informal cooperation of governmental offices with one another,
- (e) The personal cooperation of governmental officials and employees with one another, individually,
- (f) The interchange and clearance of research and information, and
- (g) Any other suitable process.

(4) In short, to do all such acts as will, in the opinion of this commission, enable this state to do its part—or more than its part in forming a more perfect union among the various governments in the United States and in developing the council of state governments for that purpose.

**Sec. 7. Commission to form certain committees.** The commission shall establish such delegations and committees as it deems advisable, in order that they may confer and formulate proposals concerning effective means to secure interstate harmony, and may perform other functions for the commission in obedience to its decisions. Subject to the approval of the commission, the member or members of each such delegation or committee shall be appointed by the chairman of the commission. State officials or employees who are not members of the Commission on Interstate Cooperation may be appointed as members of any such delegation or committee, but private citizens holding no governmental position in this state shall not be eligible. The Commission may provide such other rules as it considers appropriate concerning the membership and functioning of any such delegation or committee. The Commission may provide for advisory boards for itself and for its various delegations and committees, and may authorize private citizens to serve on such boards.

**Sec. 8. Reports, employees.** The commission shall report to the governor and to the legislature within 15 days after the convening of each regular legislative session, and at such other times as it deems appropriate. Its members and the members of all delegations and committees which it

establishes shall serve without compensation for such service, but they shall be paid their necessary expenses in carrying out their obligations under this act. The Commission may employ a secretary and a stenographer, it may incur such other expenses as may be necessary for the proper performance of its duties, and it may, by contributions to the Council of State Governments, participate with other states in maintaining the said Council's district and central secretariats, and its other governmental services.

**Sec. 9. Titles.** The committees and the commission established by this act shall be informally known, respectively, as the Senate Cooperation Committee, the House Cooperation Committee, the Governor's Cooperation Committee and the Maine Cooperation Commission.

**Sec. 10. Council to be a joint governmental agency.** The Council of State Governments is hereby declared to be a joint governmental agency of this state and of the other states which cooperate through it.

**Sec. 11. Other states to be notified.** The secretary of state shall forthwith communicate the text of this measure to the governor, to the senate, and to the house of representatives, of each of the other states of the Union, and shall advise each legislature which has not already done so that it is hereby memorialized to enact a law similar to this measure, thus establishing a similar commission, and thus joining with this state in the common cause of reducing the burdens which are imposed upon the citizens of every state by governmental confusion, competition and conflict.

**Sec. 12. Saving clause.** If any clause or other portion of this act is held to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this act. The legislature hereby declares that all such remaining portions of this act are severable, and that it would have enacted such remaining portions if the invalid portions had not been included in this act.