

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THIRD SPECIAL SESSION—JULY 22, 1940

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1255**

S. P. 768

House of Representatives, July 22, 1940.

Read and accepted and sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Senator Sanborn of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY

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To the Members of the Eighty-ninth Legislature:

The committee on administrative code, pursuant to authority conferred by the resolve creating the committee, has given such study to the existing provisions of chapter 216 of the public laws of 1931, commonly known as the administrative code, as the limited time at its disposal would permit.

We have held sessions at the state house during six entire days and have studied the comprehensive report made to Governor Gardiner by the National Institute of Public Administration in 1930. We have conferred at length with Messrs. Wilkinson and Noon of the auditing firm of Ernst & Ernst and at our request Mr. A. E. Buck of the National Institute has spent two days in the state house observing current administrative practices in the various state offices and he has given us the benefit of his conclusions.

Foreseeing the possibility that our recommendations might include one calling for an amendment to the constitution, we have thus far limited our study to the financial administration of the state, and this study has led us to the conclusion that the first and most important matter to be given legislative attention is that of a reorganization of the office of treasurer of state. By constitutional provision, that officer is now elected by the legislature for a term of two years. He must campaign for his election and re-election. The constitution, too, limits his period of service to six

consecutive years, thereby depriving the state of the value which long continued service would make possible.

We believe that the constitutional provisions relating to the treasurer should be repealed and so recommend.

We then recommend that the office be set up as a bureau in the department of finance as now existing.

We recommend that lists of all items of income accruing to the state be certified to the treasurer by the various departments and state agencies in which they may originate, and that to the duties now imposed upon the treasurer by law, there be added those of receiving and keeping a record of all such items and of promptly and diligently collecting them.

By such a system there can be found in one office a fairly comprehensive picture of the financial condition of the state at all times. Such a system, by the way, would best be served by an appointive incumbent of broad accounting, banking and investment training and experience; in other words, a career man who should be paid a salary commensurate with his duties and responsibilities. He should, moreover, be retained in office as long as he performs his work efficiently. Such an arrangement, we believe, would obviate the necessity of the continuance of the office of deputy state treasurer, and we recommend its abolishment.

In accordance with these recommendations, we have prepared and present herewith a resolve for the purpose of amending the constitution, and an act setting up a bureau of the treasury.

Our further studies will, of necessity, disclose the desirability of other changes in the laws affecting the state's financial administration, but we believe that any such changes should follow and integrate with, rather than precede, that which we are here recommending, and which we believe to be of vital importance, viewed either from the standpoint of efficiency or economy.

Respectfully submitted,

LAUREN M. SANBORN  
 FRANCIS H. FRIEND  
 CLARENCE B. BECKETT  
 W. MAYO PERHAM  
 E. SAM FARWELL  
 ALAN L. BIRD  
 GEORGE R. GRUA  
 ROLAND J. POULIN  
 GEORGE H. HINCKLEY

Committee on Administrative Code

Augusta, Maine, July 22, 1940.