

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 13

S. P. 50

In Senate, January 16, 1945.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cleaves of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Creating a Division of Community Recreation Under the State
Park Commission.**

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

R. S., c. 32, amended. Chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 7 new sections to be numbered 23-A to 23-G to read as follows :

‘Sec. 23-A. Purposes of §§ 23-A - 23-G; definition of “community recreation.” The purposes of sections 23-A to 23-G, inclusive, are:

I. To promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people of the state;

II. To cultivate the development of good citizenship and character;

III. To aid in the speedy rehabilitation and absorption of war veterans and their families into normal and satisfying life;

IV. To make community-living more attractive; and

V. To contribute to the general well-being of the state by assisting counties, cities, towns and other political subdivisions in providing adequate community recreation programs.

This assistance is to be given to communities upon request; and this service is to be provided in the best traditions of preserving local autonomy, initiative and responsibility.

The term "community recreation" means any activity voluntarily engaged in which contributes to the physical, mental or spiritual development of the individual, group or community participating therein, and in which there is a community interest.'

'Sec. 23-B. State division of community recreation established. There is hereby established, under the authority of the existing state park commission, a division of community recreation.

The staff of the division shall consist of a director of community recreation, clerical help and such other personnel as may be needed, the clerical help and such other personnel to be subject to the provisions of the state personnel law.'

'Sec. 23-C. Additional powers and duties of commission. The state park commission shall have and exercise the following additional powers and duties:

I. To receive and administer federal, state and other funds, from whatever sources provided, for carrying out the purposes of sections 23-A to 23-G, inclusive, subject to the approval of the governor and council;

II. To employ recreation personnel as may be necessary, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, to conduct the affairs of the division of community recreation;

III. To assist in securing more effective use, for recreation purposes, of land and water areas within the confines of the state and under and/or federal jurisdiction; and

IV. To cooperate and collaborate with other agencies and state departments in matters of public recreation.'

'Sec. 23-D. Advisory committee; creation; appointment; terms; vacancies; qualifications; expenses. To assist the state park commission in the more effective administration of community recreation throughout the state, there is hereby created an advisory committee on recreation, which shall consist of 5 citizen members having a definite interest in community recreation, the commissioner of education and the commissioner of health and welfare. The members of the first advisory committee shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, to serve for the following terms: 1 member for 1 year; 1 member for 2 years; 1 member for 3 years; 1 member for 4 years; and 1 member for 5 years

from the date of their appointment, or until their successors are duly appointed and have qualified.. On the expiration of the term of any member, the governor, in the manner hereinbefore provided, shall appoint a member for a term of 5 years; and such member shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which such member is appointed, or until a successor has been appointed and has qualified. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the governor as above provided.. The committee shall annually elect its own chairman.. At least 2 members of the committee shall be women. Regular meetings shall be called quarterly, and special meetings shall be called when deemed necessary by the state park commission and/or director. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. Members shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses.'

'Sec. 23-E. Powers and duties of advisory committee. The advisory committee shall advise and assist the state park commission and/or director in formulating plans and in approving policies pertaining to community recreation.'

'Sec. 23-F. Powers and duties of director. The director shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:

I. To assemble and disseminate information relative to public recreation matters;

II. To furnish field and technical service on recreation matters by studying and appraising recreation needs, by promoting and organizing local recreation systems, by developing programs and services, by providing assistance in designing and laying out recreation areas and facilities, by helping to recruit, train and place recreation workers, by promoting recreation institutes and conferences, by helping to devise methods of financing programmes, by helping in the development of local legislation and by interpreting and developing plans;

III. To assist in the establishing and promoting of standards in recreation;

IV. To cooperate with private groups and corporations and with public agencies for the promotion of recreation;

V. To assist in developing recreation in urban, suburban and rural areas;

VI. To cooperate with commercial recreation interests in the promotion of wholesale recreation opportunities.

VII. To submit to the governor at least annually, and more often if the committee sees fit, a comprehensive report of the division's activities.'

'Sec. 23-G. Permissive powers of commission and/or committee. The state park commission and/or the advisory committee may delegate any of their duties and powers to the director of community recreation.'