

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. 894

S. P. 346

In Senate, February 15, 1945.

Transmitted by revisor of statutes pursuant to joint order

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Dow of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

**RESOLVE, Authorizing Preparation of a Digest of the Opinions of the
Law Court.**

Preparation of digest authorized. Resolved: That the attorney-general be, and hereby is, authorized and instructed to compile a digest of the opinions of the law court of the state of Maine in such order and form as shall seem best to him after taking the opinions of the members of the bar of the state. To aid him in this work, he is empowered to employ one or more competent and experienced members of the bar and such clerical assistance as may be necessary; and be it further

Appropriation. Resolved: That the governor and council are hereby authorized to provide for the printing and sale of the digest to the end that as nearly as possible the expense of the state shall be fully defrayed. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this resolve, the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946 and the sum of \$5,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, is hereby appropriated from the general fund of the state.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

To date, 139 volumes of Maine Reports have been published. There are in use various partial digests as follows:

1. Savage's Digest and Supplement, covering volumes 1 to 103, inclusive;
2. Lawrence's Digest, covering volumes 1 to 113, inclusive;
3. Bartlett and Stern's Digest and Supplement (written in a form to which most Maine lawyers are unaccustomed and covering but 10 volumes each); and
4. Maine and Atlantic Digest, published by West Publishing Company. The latter set of books consists of 33 volumes, covers recent years only, commingles Maine cases with those of several other states, and is extremely expensive to keep up.

A compact, down to date digest, to which supplements can be added at regular intervals, is badly needed, and, because of the nature of the book, its production should be regarded as a duty of the state in the same way that the Maine Reports are so regarded.