

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 17

H. P. 22

House of Representatives, January 15, 1953.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jacobs of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide Additional State Office Space.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves passed by the legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergency bills; and

Whereas, the number of employees of the state government has so increased that the state government cannot continue to operate adequately unless more office space is immediately provided for it; and

Whereas, such space as is now available is in separated buildings, some distance apart, whereby the state government cannot be carried on effectively; and

Whereas, new building construction cannot be carried on in cold weather and it is necessary to begin new building construction prior to the fall or winter of 1953; and

Whereas, the situation described herein has reached such proportions that it amounts to an emergency, the correction of which is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. The attorney general to convey property of Maine State Office Building Authority. The attorney general is hereby empowered and directed on behalf of the Maine State Office Building Authority, created by chapter 76 of the private and special laws of 1941, as amended, to convey to the state of Maine all the real estate now held by or in the name of said authority. By such conveyance the said authority shall be divested of all right, title and interest in and to all the real estate now in its name and the same shall belong to the state of Maine.

Sec. 2. Members of authority and commission to deliver property. The members of the Maine State Office Building Authority and of the Building Commission, also created by said chapter 76, are hereby directed, and each of them is hereby directed, to deliver forthwith to the governor and council any and all property of said authority and of said commission over which they may have control, including, but not exclusively, all minute books, records, architectural sketches, drawings, designs, and all other property.

Sec. 3. Maine State Office Building Authority and Commission abolished. Except for their duties stated under section 2 hereof, the members of the Maine State Office Building Authority and Commission shall have no further duties. Except as inconsistent with section 2 hereof, chapter 76 of the private and special laws of 1941, chapter 94 of the private and special laws of 1943, chapter 51 of the private and special laws of 1945 and chapter 128 of the private and special laws of 1947 are hereby, and each of them is, repealed.

Sec. 4. State House Offices Committee created. The governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the council, 4 persons who, with the governor, shall constitute the State House Offices Committee. The governor shall, ex officio, be the chairman of said committee unless and until he declines, in which event another member shall be chosen chairman by the 5 committee members for as long as the governor shall decline to be chairman.

Sec. 5. Tenure. The 4 members other than the governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor.

Sec. 6. Compensation. Each member of the committee shall receive his expenses of travel from his home to the place of meeting and shall have reimbursement for other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the

discharge of his duty and shall further receive the sum of \$10 for each day during which he shall necessarily be occupied in the discharge of his duties.

Sec. 7. Duties of the committee. The committee shall cause to be constructed an addition to the present state house, or a separate building conveniently near the state house, for the purpose of affording additional office space to the departments of state government. To this end, the committee shall have power:

I. To contract to acquire, and to acquire, in the name of the state, by purchase or otherwise, real property or rights or easements necessary or convenient for its purposes.

II. To acquire, hold and dispose of personal property for its purposes.

III. To make by-laws for the management and regulation of its affairs.

IV. With the consent of the attorney general to use the facilities of his office, assistants and employees in all legal matters relating or pertaining to the committee.

V. To appoint officers, agents and employees, and fix their compensation.

VI. To make contracts, and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient.

VII. To construct a building or buildings, separated from or connected with or as an extension of the present state house, on real property which the committee may acquire in the name of and on behalf of the state, or which the state may already own, in Augusta, as convenient as may be to the present state house, together with incidental approaches, structures and facilities.

VIII. To maintain and operate said project until the same shall have been completed, in the determination of the committee, after which the operation, maintenance and control of said project shall be the responsibility of the superintendent of public buildings.

IX. To enter upon any lands and premises for the purposes of making surveys, soundings and examinations.

X. To determine how much additional office space shall be allowed to what departments of state government, and the location of such additional office space.

XI. To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers given in this act.

Sec. 8. Limitation of powers of the committee. The committee shall not contract with any architect except by a contract on behalf of the state of Maine approved by the attorney general as to legal form and by the governor and council as to substance. The committee shall not contract on behalf of the state of Maine for the construction of any building or buildings with any contractor without the same approval, but such approval shall not be required of sub-contracts. All costs and expenditures when approved by said committee shall be paid after approval of the state controller from the sum appropriated in the next following section.

Sec. 9. Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of the general fund for the purposes of this act the sum of \$2,000,000. This appropriation shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this act have been accomplished.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.