

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

## One Hundred and First Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE

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Inaugural Address  
of  
Governor John H. Reed  
to the  
101st Legislature  
January 3, 1963

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**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF JOHN H. REED, GOVERNOR OF MAINE,  
TO THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE, STATE OF MAINE**

January 3, 1963

Mr. President and Members of the 101st Legislature:

You and I live in an era of great challenge. New ideas, new technology and new dimensions influence our quest for a more secure and prosperous life for all Maine citizens. Everywhere today the accent is on the challenge of the new.

At such a time responsibilities must be met realistically. Services must be rendered consistent with the needs of the people.

We have been called upon by our fellow citizens to meet a challenge — to draft a blueprint for the guidance of the State of Maine in the future. It is to commence this task that you are assembled in Joint Convention today as the 101st Legislature.

To many of you these halls echo with the deliberations of past sessions. For others, legislative service is a new and unfamiliar experience.

To each of you I extend a welcome, pledge my cooperation, and express a sincere desire that this Session will be both successful for you and productive for the citizens of Maine.

My purpose today and in my Budget Message next week will be to outline for you my recommendations relative to what we should do now for the future of the State. These proposals embody an enlargement of my objectives for Maine and a reaffirmation of my deep and abiding belief that economic development, educational opportunity and human welfare must receive the strongest possible support of responsible State government.

The future of Maine depends upon a vigorous program of economic development.

As a State we will progress in direct proportion to our capacity to educate and train our young people.

Of moral necessity and out of compassion we cannot overlook requests placed upon State services by the less fortunate, the disabled, the aged and the institutionalized.

These are the primary objectives before us.

They can be met.

They must be met.

In evaluating our needs I have been guided by my experience of eight years in State service and by the expert advice of others in the field of State government. Moreover, my program reflects an honest attempt to be responsive to the requirements of Maine citizens.

I am confident that you have the courage and the determination to employ the resources of the State to gain for our people the necessary services of government.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAINE ECONOMY

Greater economic opportunity, with more jobs and a higher standard of living, is an end we seek.

Let us consider the state agency charged with economic advancement — the Department of Economic Development. Our sound industrial development program is dedicated to providing maximum encouragement and technical advice to both prospective and existing industry. This program must be expanded.

I shall request that you appropriate additional funds to advertise Maine's industrial assets. Advertising is one of the most effective methods by which we can assist in developing our industrial potential to its fullest extent.

#### Recreational Growth

Nature has endowed the State of Maine with an abundance of recreational assets. As a year-around vacationland we are attracting other Americans and foreign visitors in record numbers each year. The future of our recreation growth is dependent upon policies both bold in approach and sound in planning.

I propose legislation for the establishment of a Division of Outdoor Recreation in the State Park Commission. This Division will make it possible for the Commission to broaden its services to local and private recreational agencies, to coordinate all State programs in the recreational field and to work effectively with the new Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

State government must also continue to develop our historic attractions and to encourage the growth of winter sports areas and campsites. We must insure sufficient access to our lakes, streams and coastline with adequate facilities for launching small boats.

We know that Maine's recreation potential will be realized only to the extent we are successful in our promotion. I request additional appropriations be made to the Department of Economic Development in the coming biennium for more recreational promotion personnel, for an increase in advertising, and to share this State's cost of the New England Exhibition at the New York World's Fair. I also recommend the opening of a Maine tourist office in Boston.

#### State Park Development

I am convinced that we must expand our State Park program now to meet the demands of our citizens and tourist visitors. In my Capital Construction program

I shall recommend a number of State Park projects. Of these, I assign the highest priority to construction of facilities at Crescent Beach in Cape Elizabeth. I ask you to join me in supporting this major State Park development venture.

### **Fish and Game**

In the field of outdoor recreation, Maine relies heavily upon hunting and fishing. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game has grown with the public demand. The Department must continue to employ every biological research and management technique to insure that present and future generations will share in the rich bounty of our woods and waterways.

As long as an informed Legislature is willing to support necessary programs and legislation for sound development, Maine's fish and game resources will continue to be plentiful.

### **THE WORK FORCE**

The wage earners of Maine, with their minds and skills, weave the fabric of our economic life. They ask the right to secure for themselves and their families an adequate standard of living, the right to receive fair treatment and adequate protection.

Statutory regulations which directly affect the wage earner must be constantly reviewed and revised to be consistent with changing times and conditions.

I am convinced that adjustments made in the Employment Security Law by the last Legislature have caused inequities. Experience with the law in its present form clearly indicates the necessity for legislative action in order that we may more adequately respond to economic insecurity resulting from unemployment.

The Interim Study Committee, representing all interests, will provide you shortly a report on its deliberations. I have been pleased with the work of this Committee. The agreement which has been reached on tentative proposals appears to offer an excellent solution to resolving the present inequities in the law.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES**

#### **Agriculture**

Historically, agriculture has influenced the growth of the Maine economy. The Department of Agriculture has served farming interests in this State for many years.

Today, the Department has new goals and new needs. Recognizing the potential Maine has for the exportation of agricultural products, we have established a Foreign Trade Section in the Department of Agriculture. I shall request funds to make this activity permanent.

The Department also needs a poultry vaccine testing farm to evaluate under field conditions vaccines requiring permits to be sold in Maine. I recommend the leasing of such a farm for this purpose.

## **Fisheries**

I am convinced that Maine's commercial fishing industry is in urgent need of an expanded program of State assistance and protection to survive the competitive challenges of other domestic food producers and foreign fisheries.

One of the greatest demands continues to be research with particular emphasis on the utilization of our lobster resource. I recommend therefore, the appropriation of funds to establish a major lobster research program in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries.

A most pressing problem facing the Department is enforcement. No coastal wardens have been added since 1954, yet each Legislature has enacted new laws to enforce. I propose the addition of two wardens and a new patrol vessel.

## **Land and Forest Management Policies**

Few states have been so richly endowed with timber and water as has Maine. In the course of our history, however, we have come to realize that these resources are not inexhaustible, that protection, research and sound management are necessary to insure continued abundance.

I believe that the wild lands of the Allagash region are compatible with the multiple-use concept, a policy which recognizes first the use of growing timber for harvest, while at the same time integrating secondary, recreation, water and wildlife resources.

In determining the manner in which this concept should be employed by the State and private industry in the Allagash, you and I must first evaluate carefully each of the several studies that have been or will be released by private resource agencies, the Federal Government, and the Allagash Committee established by the 100th Legislature.

Challenging proposals for major hydro-electric power development merit our closest attention. State government will continue to study each proposal while maintaining its vital interest in the proposed Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project.

## **Statewide Scenic Program**

Of vital importance to Maine's economic future is the natural appearance of the State. I urge you to give serious consideration to the recommendations of the new Keep Maine Scenic Committee I have established to direct a comprehensive clean up campaign. This Committee will need funds to carry forward a program of education.

Legislation will also be introduced at my direction to increase the penalty for littering the highways and to revise our automobile junkyard statutes.

## **AIR TRANSPORTATION**

The future of air transportation in Maine may well rest in our hands. The Governor's Air Service Committee has been established to study community needs

for adequate, regularly scheduled air service necessary to economic growth. You will find recommendations of this Committee of value to your consideration of the air transportation problem.

I recognize the necessity for Federally subsidized local air carrier service to our smaller communities and will continue to press for this assistance.

The regional airport concept offers the best solution to providing trunk line carrier service to the larger geographical areas of the State. I recommend priority be given to the Central Maine area which does not have an existing facility that can be converted feasibly to a regional terminal.

I am requesting a capital appropriation to construct a State Regional Airport to service Central Maine and wish to impress upon you the urgency for decisive action.

### HIGHWAYS

Maine's Accelerated Highway Program, including State Aid, Special State Aid, and Town Road Improvement, is producing results essential to our industrial and recreational growth. Governors and Legislatures have recognized the wisdom of long-range highway planning and financing. You and I should continue this policy.

The Highway Commission states that no additional revenues will be required to finance the Highway Program during the coming biennium. A provision of funds must be made, however, for the 1966-67 biennium.

I shall speak on the subject of highway financing, reviewing the budget for the coming biennium submitted by the Highway Commission, when I present my Budget Message to you next week.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Although my position in support of education is well known, it bears reassertion at this time. Education will continue to place great demands upon the resources of State government during the coming biennium.

State funds paid to local communities for educational purposes must be increased by the 101st Legislature. I respectfully request that you appropriate the full amount of the educational subsidies to meet the State's obligation under the Law.

#### Providing for Teachers

We look to our State teacher training institutions to provide the increased number of well-qualified teachers which our local schools must have.

I shall request additional appropriations be made to the Teachers Colleges to insure that they have the faculty and facilities to meet growing enrollment demands.



Trained teachers must be retained in the schools of this State. It will soon be six years since the minimum salary schedule for Maine teachers has been increased. I shall support legislation to raise the present minimum salary paid to Maine teachers with protection features designed to level the impact on municipalities.

### **The University of Maine**

The economic growth of Maine requires the research facilities and the trained people that higher education provides. The State supported institution that answers this demand is the University of Maine.

To maintain the status quo, without advancement, the University's operating budget for the next two years will require an appropriation in excess of that provided for the current biennium.

The University of Maine must do more today than maintain the status quo. I ask that you give careful consideration to the University's requests for increased operating funds and for capital construction at the Orono and Portland campuses.

### **Specialized Education**

In evaluating the educational needs of Maine we must continue to give serious attention to vocational training. I recommend that additional financial support be rendered the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute to enable this school to increase its services to a growing number of young people seeking to develop their skills.

The highest priority must be given to the early opening of a second State vocational institution. To permit fall enrollments at the new vocational school at Presque Isle, emergency legislation will be introduced to appropriate funds for building renovations and to employ a faculty.

Since its earliest days, Maine has sent sons to sea where they have traditionally excelled in earning a livelihood. Of several states today, we possess the finest maritime academy. The Maine Maritime Academy is experiencing significant growth and the State must continue to share the cost of this expansion.

The 100th Legislature voted, and the people of Maine approved in referendum, a bond issue for the construction of a statewide educational television network. To operate this network during the coming biennium will require a legislative appropriation.

## **CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN NEEDS**

State government should be responsive to human needs. When illness, age and misfortune prevent citizens from leading full, productive lives, then we must act to protect and provide for them. This task belongs to the Department of Health and Welfare.

To expand the Department's capacity to serve Maine people, I submit these proposals for your consideration.

A specific and limited program for providing greater hospital and nursing home care to the indigent and medically indigent was enacted by the last Legislature. I now propose expanding medical care.

To provide professional services for those in need, I recommend the extension of the State medical assistance program which will generate additional Federal funds under the Kerr-Mills Act.

Unemployment, where it exists, has deep-seated and long-lasting adverse effects upon individuals, families and communities. I shall request that legislation be introduced to amend Maine's Aid to Dependent Children Law to permit grants on the basis of unemployment. This change would allow the State to receive Federal funds for the same purpose.

I also ask you to appropriate funds to increase the board and care rates paid foster parents in this State. The last rate increase was in 1957. Since that time there has been a steady rise in the cost of providing for the youngsters committed under this program.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS

In further consideration of the State's responsibility toward meeting human needs, I direct your attention to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, an agency charged not only with humane custody but also with the task of restoring people to useful places in society.

The highly successful After-Care Program at the Boys Training Center has placed increased demands upon our Probation and Parole Service. I will ask you to appropriate the funds necessary to permit this division to increase its staff.

You will be requested to provide additional funds for staff and improved facilities at each of the State institutions. I recommend a Family Care Program for Augusta and Bangor State Hospitals and your continued support of the excellent services rendered by Pineland Hospital.

A population expansion at several of our institutions during the past two years has necessitated the employment of additional employees on a project basis. The need for these positions is well established. I recommend that this Legislature provide funds for these personnel to continue on a permanent basis.

### **The Boys Training Center**

I am thoroughly convinced that the Boys Training Center has reached the crossroads of its existence. A major problem facing the Center is population growth, so significant that an acute shortage of facilities exists today to properly carry out a program for those committed.

Another basic problem is location. In determining how to solve this problem I have sought the advice of financial, correctional and institutional management experts and have considered the recommendations of Federal and State Aeronautics authorities. The present location of the Boys Training Center prohibits

the future development of the Portland Municipal Airport. We must face this situation realistically because no wholly satisfactory and safe relationship between the two facilities can ever exist.

Therefore, I recommend the relocation of the Boys Training Center to a new site without delay and the construction of a new institution. Clearly, there is no other alternative.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

### Constitutional Commission

State government must maintain itself in accordance with contemporary needs. The 100th Legislature created the second Constitutional Commission in Maine history to study our basic law and report to the Legislature recommended changes and amendments to the Constitution of the State of Maine which appear to be necessary or desirable.

The Commission will report to you in the near future on the question of reapportionment upon which it has spent considerable time and study in recent months.

An extension of the work of the Commission beyond this Session of the Legislature would allow it to give additional attention to other important areas. Therefore, I recommend that you authorize the Constitutional Commission to continue its work through this biennium with its final report to be filed with the 102nd Legislature in January of 1965.

### The District Court System

Recognizing the tremendous impact of the new District Court Law upon the judicial system of Maine and its inspiring acceptance in the administration of justice, I wish to reaffirm my full faith in not only the reform itself but in the personnel involved.

Such sweeping changes always necessitate adjustments and an additional appropriation will be required to completely establish the court sites at which time the system will become self-sustaining.

### State Personnel

The State of Maine is served by thousands of dedicated employees. Their loyalty and competency have resulted in a high degree of operational efficiency.

The last Legislature implemented provisions of the Jacobs Pay Plan. I ask you to continue this policy with the appropriation of funds to carry out longevity measures that would affect nearly 40 per cent of our State personnel, those who have given faithful service for periods of eight and fifteen years.

There has been no mileage allowance increase in over a decade for employees who use their personal cars on State business. A reasonable upward adjustment is recommended.

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

State government must act to protect citizens and property. One of the most pressing problems confronting us today is highway safety.

The Maine Highway Safety Committee has rendered invaluable assistance to this effort and deserves our commendation and continued support.

This Legislature has the opportunity to make significant contributions to the highway safety cause. For your consideration I submit the following proposals.

Because of increased traffic and a growing demand for service in all phases of law enforcement, the Maine State Police require additional personnel. I recommend adding 20 new troopers to the State Police force in the coming biennium.

Automobile safety belts are saving lives. Legislation will be introduced to require all automobiles sold and operated in this State to be equipped with such belts beginning with 1965 models.

I ask you to authorize a new and improved Maine motor vehicle operator's license. The license I propose is a plastic, tamper-proof type, to be issued on a two-year basis. The establishment of the new license system will require an initial appropriation. A modest increase in the fee charged would fund the system thereafter.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In my address to you today I have outlined areas of need which will necessarily require Capital Improvement expenditures. As State services are broadened, buildings and facilities must be improved and new construction undertaken.

The Bureau of Public Improvements has scheduled priorities for capital construction. Their recommendations will prove helpful to you in determining projects to be authorized.

## FINANCES AND REVENUES

Additional revenue will be required to finance the program I have placed before you. In appraising this necessity I have given careful consideration to the State's existing operating requirements. A vigorous attempt has been made to effect all possible economies.

I am determined that we shall make progress.

I am equally determined to do it within our ability to pay.

I shall make my revenue recommendations to you during my budget message next week.

### CONCLUSION

Finally, the time will come when you and I shall pass beyond these halls, but the task of providing for the continuing needs of Maine and its people will not. The question we are called to answer is how to best meet these needs now with the resources available to us.

Legislative decision-making requires great application, great courage and a deep insight into the problems and the aspirations of all the citizens. For their sake we must not fail.

The course of the coming months may not be always easy, but we shall proceed on it together. I stand ready to work with you. I shall need your help and your cooperation.

Together and beyond the limits of partisan difference, we can, with the aid of Almighty God, write a new chapter in the history of the State of Maine. The opportunity is now in our hands.

Let us take up the task and go forward to fulfill our duty to the people of Maine with the best that is in our minds and in our hearts.

JOHN H. REED,

Governor of Maine