

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY  
PORTLAND, MAINE  
1977

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PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

1977

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take effect for all purposes hereof at the annual meeting in 1978; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of sections 1 and 3 of this Act at the meeting equaled or exceeded 50% of the total number of votes cast in the plantation at the last gubernatorial election.

The result of the vote shall be declared by the board of assessors of Hammond Plantation and due certificate shall be filed by the plantation clerk with the Secretary of State.

Effective October 24, 1977

## CHAPTER 64

### AN ACT to Provide for Marine Resources Education by the Department of Marine Resources.

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Marine Resources the sum of \$55,000 to carry out the purposes of the Revised Statutes, Title 12, sections 3451 to 3502-A, subsection 2. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(2) \$15,000	(2) \$25,000
All Other	5,000	10,000
Total	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>

Effective October 24, 1977

## CHAPTER 65

### AN ACT to Establish the Maine Food and Farmland Study Commission.

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

**Sec. 1. Maine Food and Farmland Study Commission.** In order to protect the food production capability of the State, to provide consumers

with ready access to wholesome, locally-produced food products and to encourage greater food and agricultural self-sufficiency, there is hereby created the Maine Food and Farmland Study Commission to study the problem of conversion of farmland to other uses. The commission shall recommend to the Governor and to the 109th Legislature policies and programs to protect agricultural lands from urban encroachment and residential development by:

1. **Agricultural use of land.** Encouraging the agricultural use of land, thus contributing to the income and employment of many citizens of the State and to the Maine economy in general;

2. **Continuity of agricultural open space.** Encouraging the continuity of agricultural open space with its environmental benefits, including rural aesthetics and enhanced air and water quality; and

3. **Field of agriculture.** Encouraging and enabling successive generations of Maine citizens to enter the field of agriculture.

**Sec. 2. Commission; duties.** The commission shall also prepare any other recommendations it deems necessary to maintain an agricultural economy in the State. Toward these ends, the commission shall:

1. **Compile information.** Compile existing information on prime and unique agricultural land, including that which is currently in use or which has the potential to be used, with particular emphasis on lands subject to urban pressures of development;

2. **Review.** Review efforts made in other states and the Province of Canada to protect agricultural land and develop recommendations as necessary to protect Maine's agricultural land;

3. **Develop recommendations.** Develop specific recommendations toward greater state self-sufficiency in the production of food, indigenous fertilizers and soil-improving materials;

4. **Examine federal and state policies.** Examine existing federal and state policies and programs which may be contributing to the conversion of prime agricultural land or which may be unnecessarily restricting Maine agricultural enterprise and make recommendations for change;

5. **Make determinations.** Determine the feasibility of diversifying agricultural production for the benefit of both producers and consumers;

6. **Make recommendations.** Recommend ways by which statewide agricultural resource planning may be coordinated in the State; and

7. **Study and recommend methods.** Study present successes in direct marketing of food in Maine and recommend methods for increasing the scope and effectiveness of direct marketing.

**Sec. 3. Membership.** The Maine Food and Farmland Study Commission shall be composed of 21 members. After consultation with farming interests in the State, the Governor shall appoint 11 public members who shall be broadly representative of Maine's agricultural interest, including, but not limited to, the dairy, the poultry and the potato industries and commercial,

small-scale and organic farming interests, as well as those of food consumers. The 11 public members shall be appointed from a list of 22 names, 11 submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 11 submitted by the President of the Senate. The remaining 10 members shall include the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Conservation, the State Tax Assessor, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Vice-president for Research and Public Services at the University of Maine, the Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of Maine, the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, the President of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts, or their respective designees, one member of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate.

**Sec. 4. Termination; officers; expenses.** The commission shall terminate on June 30, 1979, and all appointed members shall serve terms to expire on that date. The commission shall elect from its own membership a chairman and such other officers as it deems necessary. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or at the call of more than half of the membership.

**Sec. 5. Assistance.** The commission shall have the authority to request assistance of state agencies, departments, legislative committees or other instrumentalities of the State, which shall be provided to the extent possible within the limits of existing resources.

**Sec. 6. Sources of funding.** The commission may request and receive funds to carry out the purposes of this Act from any governmental or private source.

Effective October 24, 1977

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## CHAPTER 66

### AN ACT Providing Funds from the General Fund for the Purpose of Developing a Parking Lot in Lincolnville.

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary for construction to begin at once to avoid needless congestion of traffic during the height of the tourist season; 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. Department of Transportation authorized to acquire property for parking lot in Lincolnville.** The Department of Transportation is authorized