

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED BY THE

**ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

**AND AT THE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
August 3, 1981

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# LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS

December 3, 1980

by

GOVERNOR JOSEPH E. BRENNAN

to the

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

One Hundred and Tenth Legislature

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REMARKS OF GOVERNOR JOSEPH E. BRENNAN  
TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 110th LEGISLATURE  
December 3, 1980

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERED

I am pleased to welcome you to Augusta upon the convening of the 110th Maine Legislature.

And I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on passing one of the toughest tests in our society—that of gaining the confidence and trust of your neighbors and townspeople to take on the difficult responsibilities of service in the Legislature.

At the same time, I want to commend you for your willingness to serve your communities and all the people of Maine.

The time has long past when service in the Legislature was little more than a casual pursuit for gentlemen.

Not only are women welcome in these halls, they have proven themselves to be among our most dedicated and conscientious public servants.

Being here entails great sacrifices. You must give up time you would otherwise spend with your families. You must give up income from your jobs. And you must give up some of your privacy as a public official.

There have been great changes since I served here with many of you in the Legislature just a few years ago.

Today, in the 1980's, the demands made on legislators are as enduring as the problems you must face.

There is a new atmosphere in which all of us in public life must learn to live.

Everyone—from the interest groups to the news media to your constituents—will be watching your votes and listening to your words as never before.

That's not necessarily bad, for it means you will be held accountable for what you do here.

And that accountability is a central feature of our system.

But it also means that your actions will come under great criticism from those who disagree. And sometimes that criticism will be unfair and unwarranted.

It takes great courage in these days to service in the Legislature.

And I commend you for that courage.

Today is the first occasion that a Maine Legislature has convened since the death of former Governor Longley.

Jim Longley understood the courage it took to make difficult decisions. He never shied away from acting according to his conscience. And in tribute to Governor Longley, I ask that we pause a moment to honor him and the courage he displayed—both as a leader and in his final months.

A moment ago, I spoke of the new pressures that exist for those of us in public service.

This new level of intensity of public scrutiny is nothing more than a reflection of the scope of the problems of our times.

The challenges of the 1980's are truly enormous.

More and more, they elude satisfactory resolution.

We face problems such as energy and environmental health that cry out for solutions that meet today's needs and guarantee the security of future generations.

Great time and attention will be required in such areas as human services, corrections, highway financing and economic development.

When you reconvene next month, I will deliver a comprehensive legislative message detailing my proposals to address these and other urgent needs.

You will have your own bills.

Interested members of the public will also have proposals for your consideration.

It will be hard work for you to distill all these ideas into a workable package which the taxpayers of Maine can afford.

In addition to your time and energy, the task will demand sensitivity, patience, mutual respect and compromise.

You will be asked to expand government services at a time when the people want less government.

You will be asked to create priorities among equally worthy programs serving equally urgent needs.

You will be trying to find the money for the many things that need to be done at a time when the dollars available are worth much less than they were two years ago.

Together, we will have to resolve great questions.

We will need each other.

We will need to talk honestly, openly and effectively.

My office will be a resource for you.

My Cabinet will be available to you.

My door will be open to you.

Until we meet again, I offer my best wishes to you and your families for a happy holiday season.