

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**AS PUBLIC LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

**at the**

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

**September 15, 1988 to September 16, 1988**

**and the**

**FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**November 28, 1988**

**AND**

**AS PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS AND RESOLVES**

**at the**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**December 3, 1986 to June 30, 1987**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**October 9, 1987 to October 10, 1987**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

**October 21, 1987 to November 20, 1987**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**January 6, 1988 to May 5, 1988**

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

**September 15, 1988 to September 16, 1988**

**and the**

**FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION**

**November 28, 1988**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

---

---

**Twin City Printery**  
**Lewiston, Maine**  
**1989**

---

---

# LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS

September 15, 1988

by

GOVERNOR JOHN R. McKERNAN, JR.

to the

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

One Hundred and Thirteenth Legislature

---

---



*Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the 113th Legislature:*

As they say in Korea, let the games begin!

I want to welcome all of you back to Augusta and reassure you that the Olympian effort of reaching bi-partisan agreement on how best to return the state surplus appears to have been accomplished. If indeed that is the case, we get a gold medal, but far more importantly, the citizens of Maine get their silver.

As states across this nation are facing hard times and huge budget deficits, Maine is blessed with prosperity and an unprecedented surplus. As other states find it necessary to raise taxes *again*, Maine finds itself returning revenues to its people *again*.

Faced with more money than we expected or need, state government has done what it should. We are returning the money to those who paid it. Government is not going to get bigger; the wallets of hard working Maine men and women are.

For the past month, members of the Taxation Committee have worked with our administration to ensure that the money is returned as quickly as possible to those who paid it. On Tuesday, the Committee unanimously approved a plan that provides significant relief to the middle class, as well as property tax relief to our citizens and communities.

I want to thank the Committee chairs, Representative Cashman and Senator Twitchell, as well as Representative Jackson, for their strong desire to reach a consensus on what could have been a highly partisan issue. Because of their involvement, we have been able to devise a fair and practical system of tax relief in 1988 that will not put burdensome demands on future budgets.

But just because we've cleared one hurdle doesn't mean there aren't others before us. Maine faces a number of major challenges that cannot wait until the 114th Legislature to be resolved.

Through work with the Appropriations Committee, we are proposing a funding package that will address major problems in our delivery of services to the mentally ill.

We are proposing adding badly needed staff to the Land Use Regulatory Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection in order to relieve tremendous pressures brought by growth across the state.

And we are proposing funds to assure that critical drug enforcement activities will be able to continue at their current level.

These are challenges that we must address now, and we must address them in a manner that meets the state's needs not only tomorrow, but in the long term.

In each of these areas, we know what needs to be done, and we have the resources to see that it is done. I hope the same spirit that allowed us to come together on the tax issue will enable us to reach a consensus on these other important challenges.

As I said to Tom Murphy last night — and I was quoting someone; I want to make that clear — "politics and teaching are the noblest of professions because they touch lives and set social and moral values in a way that no other profession can." That's a tremendous responsibility, one that this legislature has met repeatedly in the past two years. I'm confident that during this session you will do so again.

Thank you very much.