

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 26, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

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

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997

CHAPTER 51

H.P. 1035 - L.D. 1452

**An Act to Establish the Task Force to
Study Equal Economic Opportunity
for All Regions of the State**

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

Sec. 1. Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State; established. The Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State is established and referred to in this Act as the "task force."

1. Membership. The task force consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

- A. Five members of the Legislature, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development;
- B. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or a designee empowered to act on the behalf of the commissioner;
- C. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or a designee empowered to act on the behalf of the commissioner;
- D. The Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission or a designee empowered to act on the behalf of the director;
- E. Three members from regional development agencies located in northern, western and eastern counties of the State; and
- F. Three members of the public.

The task force may create working groups with representatives from interested parties and members of the task force to assist in its work. Regional development agencies members and public members of the task force must be appointed by the chair.

2. Appointments. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act, with the exception of the regional development agency members and public members. The regional agency members and public members must be appointed by the chair of the task force by the task force's 2nd meeting. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the

appointment of all members is complete, the Chair of the Legislative Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force no later than October 15, 1997. The task force shall select a chair from among its legislative members. Task force meetings must be held in various regions of the State, with emphasis on holding meetings in the areas most affected by lack of economic development. The task force may not hold meetings during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

3. Duties. The task force shall:

- A. Study the causes of unequal economic growth in regions of the State and recommend strategies to overcome barriers to economic growth in affected regions of the State, including but not limited to Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo, Hancock and Washington counties;
- B. Identify strategies to provide fair and equitable standards for development and construction in all areas of the State;
- C. Examine laws and regulations governing economic development and recommend policies and actions that will enhance economic development statewide; and
- D. Request necessary data from either public or private entities that relate to the needs of the task force.

4. Staff assistance. The task force shall request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative Council.

5. Meetings. The task force may meet up to 4 times.

6. Reimbursement. The task force members who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for each day of attendance at meetings of the task force and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses upon application to the Legislative Council. All other members are not entitled to compensation for their participation on the task force. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer the task force's budget.

7. Report. The task force shall submit a report with any accompanying legislation to the Governor, the Legislative Council and the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature by January 1, 1998.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1997-98

LEGISLATURE

Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State

Personal Services	\$1,100
All Other	1,500

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State.

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TOTAL \$2,600

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 52

H.P. 263 - L.D. 327

An Act to Expand Access to Maine's Technical Colleges

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

Sec. 1. Matching appropriation. The \$300,000 appropriation provided to the Maine Technical College System by section 2 of this Act must be matched by an equal amount raised by the system through a fund-raising campaign between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1999. Each college must raise funds equal to at least 50% of the state funds identified for that college as determined by the board of trustees. For purposes of this Act, matching funds may be in the form of cash, grants, equipment or supplies. If the system is unable to raise the entire \$300,000 in matching funds, the system shall return to the State by June 30, 1999 the portion of this appropriation that the system is unable to match. The funds must be used to increase system enrollment by approximately 85 students.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1998-99

MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

Maine Technical College System - Board of Trustees

All Other	\$300,000
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Provides funds that, when matched by an equal amount raised by the colleges through a fund-raising campaign, will be used to increase system enrollment by approximately 85 students.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 53

S.P. 516 - L.D. 1600

An Act to Assist the Maine Potato Industry

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

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
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AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Marketing Services - Agriculture

All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
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Provides for the appropriation of funds for inspections of table stock potatoes.

See title page for effective date.