

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PART 2

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

Chap.	Sec.
101. Department of Economic Development	401
103. Industrial Building Authority	701
105. Washington County	901

CHAPTER 101

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Subch.	Sec.
I. Organization	401
II. Research and Planning	451
III. Industrial Promotion	501
IV. Vacation Travel Promotion	551
V. Publicity and Public Relations	601
VI. Geological Survey	651

SUBCHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION

Sec.
401. Commissioner.
402. —Powers and duties.
403. Cooperation with others.
404. Advisory council.
405. —Duties and privileges.

§ 401. Commissioner

The Department of Economic Development, as heretofore established and hereinafter in this chapter called the "department" shall be under the supervision and control of a Commissioner of Economic Development, hereinafter in this chapter called the "commissioner." He shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council for a term of 4 years and shall hold office until his successor is appointed and qualified.

The commissioner may be removed by the Governor and Council. Any vacancy in said office shall be filled by appointment for a like term in the same manner as hereinbefore provided.

He shall receive such salary as the Governor and Council may determine.

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1957, c. 123, § 1; 1963, c. 417, § 1.

§ 402. —Powers and duties

The commissioner may employ division directors, deputies, assistants, industrial development specialists and such other employees as may be necessary, subject to the Personnel Law; employ or engage with the approval of the Governor and Council such outside technical or professional consultants as may be necessary or appropriate to assist the department in carrying out its functions; and may enter into contracts with other boards, commissions, departments and divisions of the State or with the University of Maine to assist him or any division of the department in carrying out this chapter.

The commissioner shall hold staff meetings with the division directors monthly or more often as deemed necessary for ascertaining progress and discussion of new and current programs. The division directors shall hold similar staff meetings with the personnel of their respective divisions.

The commissioner shall organize a Division of Research and Planning, a Division of Industrial Promotion, a Division of Vacation Travel Promotion, a Division of Publicity and Public Relations and a Division of Geological Survey.

The commissioner is authorized and empowered to accept for the State any federal funds apportioned under federal law relating to urban planning and planned public works and to do such acts as are necessary for the purpose of carrying out such federal law; and to accept from any other agency of government, individual, group or corporation such funds as may be available in carrying out this chapter.

The commissioner shall submit an annual report on or before January 15th of the department's activities and expenditures to the Governor, members of the Legislature and the general public.

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1957, c. 123, §§ 2, 2-A, 3; 1963, c. 417, § 2.

§ 403. Cooperation with others

The several officers, boards, commissions, departments and divisions of the State, and city and town officials may consult with the department and furnish or make available to it data and information within their knowledge or control.

1955, c. 471, § 1.

§ 404. Advisory council

A Department of Economic Development Advisory Council, as heretofore established, shall consist of 7 members appointed by the Governor for a term of 3 years, provided that of the members first appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of one year, 3 for a term of 2 years and 3 for a term of 3 years. A vacancy in office of a member, other than by expiration, shall be filled in like manner as an original appointment, but only for the term of the retiring member. Members may be removed by the Governor for cause. The Governor shall appoint one of its members as chairman.

Secretarial assistance shall be provided by the department and the minutes of the meetings of the council shall be recorded, reproduced and a copy shall be made available to the Governor and the commissioner.

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1963, c. 346.

§ 405. —Duties and privileges

The advisory council shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in the performance of their duties from funds appropriated to the department.

The advisory council shall meet at least once each month at the call of the chairman or at the request of 3 members of the advisory council. Suitable accommodations shall be provided for such meetings by the department.

The advisory council shall review departmental activities, make such recommendations and render advice relative to the operation of the department, as they deem advisable, to the commissioner and the Governor. The commissioner shall be present at meetings of the advisory council if requested. A record of the recommendations and advice of the advisory council shall be maintained by the department. Within 30 days after the filing of a recommendation by the advisory council, the commissioner shall file with the Governor and advisory council his response to the recommendations.

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1963, c. 346.

SUBCHAPTER II
RESEARCH AND PLANNING

Sec.

451. Powers and duties.

§ 451. Powers and duties

The Division of Research and Planning shall be empowered to:

1. Information concerning economic considerations. Compile and maintain information useful to the development of all industries of the State concerning resources, sites, space, equipment, adequate housing, contracts, materials, transportation, markets, labor supply, population trends and other economic considerations.

2. Studies: Industry and economy. Study specific problems peculiar to the industry and economy of Maine with a view towards the broader utilization of our natural resources and the development of new and improved industrial products and techniques, which studies shall be advanced by coordination of research with existing private and governmental agencies and education institutions, and may be advanced by contractual relations with persons or organizations familiar with the problems and equipped to conduct the needed research.

3. Studies: Agriculture and sea and shore fisheries. Study specific problems relating to agriculture and sea and shore fisheries, cooperating with the Departments of Agriculture and Sea and Shore Fisheries and other existing governmental and private agencies in the development of new products and techniques which will tend to improve the economic condition of those engaged in these 2 endeavors.

4. Reports. Assist in the preparation of reports upon request from the Governor or any state department.

5. Data on types of industry. Prepare evidence and supporting data on types of industry on which special efforts should be made to locate them in Maine, with special attention to the possibilities in the fields of electronics, nuclear energy, plastics, and other industries based on recent technological developments.

6. Master plan. Prepare and from time to time revise and perfect a master plan for the physical development of the State.

Such master plan, with any accompanying maps, plats, charts and descriptive matter, shall be designed with the general purpose of guiding and carrying forward such coordinated, effective and economic development of the State, with due respect to its topography, resources and its present needs and future possibilities, as will best promote the health, safety, order, convenience, welfare and prosperity of the people. Among other things such master plan shall tend to bring into suitable relation the use of land, soil, water and natural resources; the location and distribution of population and habitation; agriculture and forestry; recreational resources, facilities and opportunities; fishing and mining; trade and industry; ports, highways, railways, airways and every form of transportation, travel and communication; public institutions of every description, whether publicly or privately supported; water supply and disposal of sewage; and all such other developments and uses as will tend to avoid waste of the human, financial and physical resources of the State and to promote the above purposes.

7. Coordinating agency. Act as the coordinating agency between the several officers, boards, commissions, departments and divisions of the State in matters relative to the physical development of the State, including the Maine Port Authority and Maine Aeronautics Commission, and review the proposals of said agencies in the light of their relationship to the master plan and incorporate the results of such reviews in the reports of the department. Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the powers and duties of any officer, board, commission, department or division of the State.

8. Assistance and advice. Assist in planning and executing any public or private project involving federal grants or loans; advise, confer and otherwise cooperate with municipal planning boards, agencies, officials, civic and other groups and citizens in matters relating to urban renewal, zoning, and planning relating to schools, housing, health, land use controls, assessment and taxation, and other objectives; initiate, encourage and assist local planning boards and other municipal agencies and officials in regional planning and urban renewal. (1959, c. 359, § 2.)

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1959, c. 359, § 2.

SUBCHAPTER III

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION

Sec.

501. Powers and duties.

§ 501. Powers and duties

The Division of Industrial Promotion shall be empowered to:

1. Promote and attract new industry. Implement a program designed to promote and attract new industry and coordinate these activities with the efforts of public, private and other agencies.

1963, c. 417, § 3.

2. Solicitation for industrial prospects. Devise, initiate and prosecute an aggressive system of solicitation of and assistance for industrial prospects without the State, and prospects for industrial expansion within the State, utilizing field representatives and technicians in cooperation with citizens' groups, service organizations, chambers of commerce, and regional and municipal agencies and officials.

3. Office or offices for information. Maintain an office or offices without the State for the receipt and dissemination of information concerning the attraction of new industries to the State.

1963, c. 417, § 3.

4. Assistance to local communities. Promote the industrial development efforts of local communities by assisting in the formation of industrial foundations in cooperation with local agencies.

1957, c. 123, § 5.

5. Negotiation and assistance for existing industry. Negotiate directly with existing industries seeking expansion within the State and providing them with technical assistance, with special emphasis in aiding the retention of an existing industry which might relocate outside of Maine.

1957, c. 123, § 5.

6. Markets for existing business. Help existing business to find markets, domestic or foreign, for their products.

1957, c. 123, § 5.

7. Publicity and promotion. Utilize such publicity and promotion as needed to attract new industries to Maine.

1963, c. 417, § 3.

8. Brochures, pamphlets, and materials. Prepare and print such brochures, pamphlets and all like materials as are deemed necessary to assist in the attraction of out-of-state industrial prospects. (1963, c. 417, § 3.)

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1957, c. 123, §§ 3-A, 4, 5; 1963, c. 417, § 3.

SUBCHAPTER IV

VACATION TRAVEL PROMOTION

Sec.

551. Powers and duties.

§ 551. Powers and duties

The Division of Vacation Travel Promotion shall be established to promote the recreational facilities of the State.

The director shall organize his staff with specific assignment of personnel for the promotion of recreational areas, conventions and tourist attractions.

The division is empowered to:

1. Advertise recreational resources. Advertise and publicly set forth and display the recreational resources, attractions and activities of the State.

2. Development and promotion. Encourage and assist in the development and promotion of the recreational resources and facilities of the State by cooperating with other state agencies and public and private organizations.

3. Data; cooperation. Utilize the data prepared and gathered by the Division of Research and Planning and the Division of Industrial Promotion, and cooperate with these 2 divisions in the advancement of the general well-being of the State.

1963, c. 417, § 4.

4. Assistance. Assist the Division of Publicity and Public Relations in the publication and providing of written publicity materials as set forth in section 601. (1963, c. 417, § 4.)

1955, c. 471, § 1; 1963, c. 417, § 4.

SUBCHAPTER V

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sec.

601. Powers and duties.

§ 601. Powers and duties

The Division of Publicity and Public Relations shall disseminate information setting forth the commercial, agricultural, industrial, fisheries, recreational, labor market and other facilities and advantages of the State.

The division shall encourage and assist in the development and promotion of the recreational resources and facilities of the State by cooperating with other state agencies, and public and private organizations.

The division shall prepare and print such brochures, pamphlets and all like materials as are deemed necessary to assist in the attraction of out-of-state vacation prospects.

The division shall operate and maintain the State of Maine building, previously erected upon the grounds of the Eastern States Agricultural and Industrial Exposition, Inc., at West Springfield, Massachusetts, for the purpose of exhibiting, publicizing and advertising Maine's products and resources in agriculture, industry, fisheries, forests, wildlife and recreation. The division shall have complete control and supervision of all exhibits held in such building.

1963, c. 417, § 6.

SUBCHAPTER VI

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Sec.

651. State Geologist.

§ 651. State Geologist

The commissioner may employ a State Geologist to serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. The State Geologist, as heretofore appointed, shall perform such duties as shall be required of

him by law or assigned to him by the commissioner, and he shall act as division director.

1. Geological Survey Publication Fund, established. There is established within the Division of Geological Survey a revolving fund for the use of the division to cover printing and distribution costs for geological and related technical literature.

2. Printing and sale of publications. The commissioner is authorized to fix the price at which publications of the Maine Geological Survey may be sold and delivered. The department shall receive without charge 10% of all such publications for complimentary distribution.

3. United States Government publications. The commissioner is authorized to fix the price at which United States Geological Survey and other United States Government maps, charts and other publications may be sold and delivered, provided such publications are specifically authorized for resale by the originating agency and are specifically concerned with technical information on the State of Maine.

4. Income from sale of publications. Income from the sale of publications shall be credited to the revolving fund to be used as a continuing carrying account to carry out the purpose of subsection 1.

1963, c. 417, § 6.