

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

by the Legislature and referred to the electorate for approval contain the exact wording of the questions voted upon by the Legislature. In addition, the bill required the Secretary of State to assist the Legislature in the wording of the referenda questions prior to enactment by the Legislature.

The procedure proposed in the bill is the procedure currently used. There is no statutory requirement that the Secretary of State assist the Legislature with the wording of referendum questions, but the Secretary of State currently provides this service. The Committee did not perceive the need to require this service by statute.

LD: 919 RESOLVE, CONCERNING STATE GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION

JACKSON
WEBSTER M
MURPHY T
PERKINS

ONTP HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 919 proposed to establish a 14 member commission to study and make recommendations concerning state government reorganization. The Commission consisting of 8 members from private business, 4 members of the Maine Legislature, and 2 state employees, would:

A. investigate the potential for the integration or elimination of state programs, departments and agencies.

The Commission would report its recommendations to the First Regular Session of the 113th Legislature an amendment to the bill, offered by the minority supporting the bill, provided a \$74,200 appropriation to complete the study. In addition, the amendment made some technical revisions concerning meetings and staff of the Commission which would not be paid a per diem compensation.

The majority of the Committee which opposed the bill did not perceive the study commission as a top priority issue in a money scarce session. In addition, some of the bill's opponents feared the proposed commission would operate in the same way as the former Longley Commission which has been severely criticized for the criteria used by that Commission to study State Government. In addition, the opponents feared a "witch-hunt" could occur which is an other criticism of the Longley Commission.