

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.

B. evaluate the impact of occupational and professional licensing on the State and on the supply of licensed/certified professionals and skilled occupations, and

C. evaluate the quality of licensed/certified professionals and skilled persons.

Maine's occupational and professional licensing boards, for the most part, are composed of members of the profession/occupation that is being regulated. Current law requires these boards to have one public member. These self-regulating boards have been criticised for allegedly controlling competition and for opposition to innovation and mavericks in the profession/occupation. The issue is whether licensing boards in Maine truly serve a public purpose. Does the current licensing system adequately protect the public and at the most economical cost?

The bill was given a "leave-to-withdraw" because the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the professional and occupational licensing boards.

LD:

1093

RESOLUTION, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS FOR SENATORS

PRAY
DOW
VIOLETTE
PERKINS

OTP HOUSE Other
SENATE Other
GOV

H-179 HA CLARK H
S-364 CA CONF COMM

SUMMARY:

LD 1093 proposed to lengthen the term of office for senators elected to the Maine Senate. In addition, the terms would be staggered. Beginning in 1986, Senators elected in the odd numbered districts would be elected to 4 year terms. In 1988, Senators from the even numbered districts would be elected to 4 year terms.

According to "The Book of The States, 1984-85" published by the Council of State Governments, 12 states have 2-year senate terms, 37 states have 4-year senate terms, and 1 state, Nebraska, has a unicameral legislature with a 4-year term. The states with two-year senate terms include:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Arizona | 5) Maine | 9) North Carolina |
| 2) Connecticut | 6) Massachusetts | 10) Rhode Island |
| 3) Georgia | 7) New Hampshire | 11) South Dakota |

4) Idaho 8) New York 12) Vermont

Of all the states, 4 states including Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, and Mississippi have 4-year terms for their respective Houses of Representatives.

The philosophy that underlines a legislature with a state senate elected for a 4-year term and a House of Representatives elected for a 2-year term is that the two year term promotes and encourages the proposal of new ideas, innovative techniques, and a spirit of change in the political system. The four year term for the Senate provides a sense of continuity and stability in the legislative process.

Another issue that is involved in LD 1093 is the expense and time required to campaign for Senate seats.

According to the Bureau of Elections, exactly \$285,522.05 was spent by all candidates for election to the office of senator in the Maine Senate in the general election held in November, 1984. This figure represents expenditures by 52 candidates and suggests an average per candidate expenditure of \$5,490.80. The minimum was \$200 for one campaign and a maximum of \$10,047.16 for the most expensive campaign.

A four year Senate term, however, does not guarantee that campaign costs will be reduced. There are many factors involved to include, degree of competition for the seat, the ability to raise campaign funds, issues before the voters, etc.

Opponents to the bill primarily concentrated on providing representatives with the same 4 year term proposed for senators (See House Amendment "A", H-179) which was incorporated in a House amendment. Some persons also believe that Maine's democracy has benefited from 2 years terms for all legislators. Since the system has worked well, there is no need to change it, asserted opponents. A Conference Committee from both Houses could not agree to a compromise, and the bill died.

LD: 1098 AN ACT RELATED TO THE OBSERVANCE OF
 EMERGENCY MEMORIAL DAY

TELOW
REEVES
ALIBERTI
ANDREWS

OTP HOUSE Emerg. Enacted
 SENATE Emerg. Enacted
 GOV EMER SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 114

SUMMARY:

LD 1098 which has been enacted, realligns the State's celebration of Memorial Day with federal celebration of the holiday. In 1975, the State Legislature enacted