

CHAPTER 10**MAINE-CANADIAN LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS****SUBCHAPTER 1****MAINE-CANADIAN LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMISSION AND OFFICE****§221. Title**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission Act." [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).

§222. Policy and purpose

The Legislature finds that there exists between Maine and its neighboring Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, a broad range of shared experience, cultural traditions, social and economic conditions and common goals, including shared recognition of the urgent need to strengthen human services, to effectively use and conserve our natural resources and to pursue economic development within a framework of responsible environmental regulation. [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

The Legislature further finds that Maine enjoys with these provinces an increasing level of cooperation, commerce and other interaction as the opportunity and need for this interaction are increasingly recognized by both public and private officials. [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

The Legislature declares that it attaches the highest importance to the pursuit of common goals and to the further strengthening of relations in all areas between Maine and the Canadian Provinces. [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

The Legislature further declares that one of the best ways of pursuing these common goals and of strengthening these relations is to encourage understanding and cooperation between itself and the legislative bodies of the Canadian Provinces and thus between the citizens of Maine and those of the Provinces of Canada. [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).

§223. Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office

There is established a Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office which shall be concerned with strengthening all areas of regional cooperation between the Legislature of Maine and the legislative bodies of Maine's neighboring Canadian Provinces, and with encouraging economic, cultural and educational exchange between Maine and these provinces. The Speaker of the House is authorized to exercise day-to-day supervision over the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office until such time as otherwise provided for by the Legislative Council and the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission. [PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. KK, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 816, §KK3 (AMD).

§224. Director

The executive head of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office is the director, who is appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate with the approval of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission. The director must be paid a salary fixed by the Legislative Council from sums available under section 226. The director must be able to speak the French language fluently. The director shall report to and is subject to the direction of the Legislative Council. [PL 2019, c. 475, §22 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 475, §22 (AMD).

§225. Director; powers and duties

The Director of the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office shall: [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

1. Recommend ways to strengthen regional cooperation. Recommend to the Legislature methods of strengthening all areas of regional cooperation with Canada; [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

2. Study and evaluate existing activities. Study and evaluate existing activities in the State on both the governmental and private levels involving cooperation with Canada, and particularly with the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island; [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

3. Determine new areas for cooperation. Determine new areas for fruitful regional cooperation, with particular attention to the potential for social betterment, economic growth, improved natural resource utilization and management and the enhancement of the environment; [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

4. Encourage exchanges. Encourage and assist economic, governmental, cultural and educational exchanges and other modes of improved contact with Canada; [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

5. Disseminate information. [PL 1987, c. 884, Pt. C, §1 (RP).]

6. Administer certain funds. Administer those funds which may be available to it for the purposes of assisting in the development of improved relations and cooperation both between Maine and Canada, especially between the Legislature of Maine and the legislative bodies of Canada.

The director shall administer the funds and pay the necessary expenses for the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission. [PL 1985, c. 775, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 775, §2 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 884, §C1 (AMD).

§226. Funds

Funds from the Federal Government, state appropriation, or from any individual, group, foundation, corporation or other private source may be accepted by the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Office and expended for purposes consistent with this chapter. [PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW).

§227. Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission

The Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 10, consists of 12 members, all of whom must be citizens of this State. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 6 members, 2 for a term of one year and 4 who must be members of the House of Representatives and who each hold office from the date of appointment until the term of election to the Legislature expires. The President of the Senate shall appoint 6 members, 2 for a term of one year and 4 who must be Senators and who each hold office from the date of appointment until the term of election to the Legislature expires. At least one member appointed by the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House must be fluent in the French language. The legislative members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House must equally represent the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, the vacancy must be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. [PL 2023, c. 415, §1 (AMD).]

Members must be compensated as provided in Title 5, chapter 379. Six members constitute a quorum. The commission shall designate one of its members as chair. [PL 2023, c. 415, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 812, §5 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 775, §3 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 809 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A215 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 503, §B3 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 1, §1 (COR). PL 2023, c. 415, §1 (AMD).

§228. Duties; meetings

The commission shall advise the director in the carrying out of the director's powers and duties, shall assist the director in encouraging increased cooperation between Maine and Canada and especially between the Legislature of Maine and the legislative bodies of Canada and shall assist the director in encouraging economic, cultural and educational exchanges between Maine and the Canadian Provinces. The commission shall meet at least 4 times in each year with the director and at such other times on the call of the chair, at the request of the director or at the request of any member, as necessary to carry out the duties outlined in this section. [PL 2019, c. 475, §23 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 605, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 475, §23 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

NEW ENGLAND AND EASTERN CANADA LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

§231. Commission

1. Commission. The New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 11, and in this chapter called "the commission," consists of 8 members from Maine, together with the same number of members appointed according to the laws of each of the other member jurisdictions.

[PL 2023, c. 415, §2 (AMD).]

2. Membership. The members of the commission from Maine are the 4 Senators and the 4 members of the House of Representatives who are appointed to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission pursuant to section 227.

[PL 2023, c. 415, §3 (AMD).]

3. Term. Each member of the commission from Maine holds office from the date of that member's appointment until the term of that member's election to the Legislature expires.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §24 (AMD).]

4. Compensation. Members of the commission from Maine are compensated in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §24 (AMD).]

5. Chairs. The members of the commission from Maine shall, by majority vote, select the cochairs or chairs who shall, together with a cochair selected by the members of the commission from the other member jurisdictions, preside over the commission.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §24 (AMD).]

6. Meetings. The commission shall meet at such times and places as are mutually agreed upon by the cochairs.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §24 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 503, §B4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 475, §24 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 415, §§2, 3 (AMD).

§232. Powers and duties

The commission has the following powers and duties: [PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).]

1. Facilitate relations. To recommend to the Legislature of Maine and the legislative bodies of other member jurisdictions methods of facilitating relations and strengthening regional cooperation between the member jurisdictions;

[PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).]

2. Exchanges. To encourage economic, cultural and educational exchanges between the member jurisdictions;

[PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).]

3. Legislative conference. To host the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Conference and to select the site for that conference; and

[PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).]

4. Mutual interest. To identify mutual interests shared by the member jurisdictions and to recommend methods of fostering those mutual interests.

[PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 775, §4 (NEW).

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