



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 339

H.P. 244

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Require Public Hearings by the Legislature To Be
Recorded and Posted on the Internet**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, GOODE of Bangor, KORNFIELD of Bangor,
VEROW of Brewer, Senator: HASKELL of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§19**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 43, §3, is amended to
3 read:

4 **19. Legislative information available through the Internet.** To make the
5 following information available through the Internet: legislative documents, committee
6 hearing schedules, work session schedules, status of legislation, voting records of
7 Legislators, the laws of Maine, study reports and reports of other study groups established
8 by the Legislature and any other information designated by the Legislative Council.
9 Beginning January 1, 2014, the Legislative Council shall arrange to record all joint
10 standing committee public hearings and make these records accessible to the public on
11 the Legislature's website within 72 hours of the public hearing. A committee may not
12 hold a work session on a bill unless the public hearing record of the bill is accessible to
13 the public on the Legislature's website. The public hearing record must be a permanent
14 record in the form of a written transcript, audio recording, video recording or other
15 electronic recording. The State Archivist shall assist and advise the Legislative Council
16 in the establishment of records management programs for the public hearing records
17 pursuant to Title 5, section 95, subsection 7.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires that all joint standing committee public hearings are recorded and
20 made accessible to the public as a written transcript, audio recording, video recording or
21 other electronic recording on the Legislature's website within 72 hours of a public hearing
22 beginning January 1, 2014. A committee may not hold a work session on a bill unless the
23 record is available on the Legislature's website. The State Archivist is required to assist
24 and advise the Legislative Council in establishing a records management program for
25 committee public hearings.