



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1645

S.P. 653

In Senate, April 15, 2025

An Act to Improve Legislative Access to Public Information

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk and
Representative: FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor.

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §408-A, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Request from Legislators; expedited process. Notwithstanding subsection 3, if a request for a public record is submitted pursuant to this section by at least 3 Legislators, the agency or official having custody or control of the public record shall comply with the request within 20 working days after the request is received, as determined pursuant to subsection 3. For purposes of this subsection, at least 3 of the Legislators submitting the request must be members of the Legislature's government oversight committee and at least one of those 3 members is the Senate or House of Representatives chair.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Freedom of Access Act by requiring a request submitted by 3 or more Legislators to be complied with within 20 working days as long as at least 3 of the Legislators are members of the Legislature's government oversight committee and one of those 3 members is one of the chairs of that committee. Current law requires the agency or official receiving the request to make a good faith effort to comply with the request within a nonbinding estimate of time provided by the agency or official.