



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 978

H.P. 692

House of Representatives, March 12, 2013

**An Act To Enhance Public Participation in Legislative Committee
Proceedings through 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 CASSIDY of Lubec.
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York and
Representatives: MAKER of Calais, McLEAN of Gorham, TURNER of Burlington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§18**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 43, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **18. Out-of-state travel report.** To submit to the joint standing committee of the
5 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs a quarterly report
6 on out-of-state travel activity of the Legislature. The report must be submitted within 15
7 days after the end of each quarter and must include, for each individual who has been
8 authorized to travel, the destination, purpose and cost by funding source of each trip; ~~and~~

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

11 **19. Legislative information available through the Internet.** To make the
12 following information available through the Internet: legislative documents, committee
13 hearing schedules, work session schedules, status of legislation, voting records of
14 Legislators, the laws of Maine, study reports and reports of other study groups established
15 by the Legislature and any other information designated by the Legislative Council; and

16 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§20** is enacted to read:

17 **20. Participation in legislative proceedings through the Internet; permanent**
18 **record.** To make all proceedings of the joint standing committees of the Legislature
19 available to the public through a live video broadcast that allows for remote public
20 participation. The public hearing record must be a permanent record in the form of a
21 video recording or other electronic recording. The State Archivist shall assist and advise
22 the Legislative Council in the establishment of records management programs for the
23 public hearing records pursuant to Title 5, section 95, subsection 7.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill authorizes the Legislative Council to make all proceedings of the joint
26 standing committees of the Legislature available to the public through a live video
27 broadcast that allows for remote public participation; records of these proceedings are
28 permanent records.