



Library Briefs

February 2015

From the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, an office of the Maine Legislature

Greetings from the staff of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, a nonpartisan office of the Maine State Legislature. The Law Library exists to serve the legal informational needs of Maine's legislators and their constituents, as well as other branches and agencies of Maine state government. Among our many services, we can provide legislative history on bills offered in past sessions, help you discover what other states are doing on a given topic, or find reports or news on an issue relating to proposed legislation. If we don't have the answer, we will try to find out or put you in touch with the people who can answer your questions. The best ways to contact the Reference Desk are by phone at 287-1600 or via our reference intake form at <http://maine.gov/legis/lawlib/refemail.htm>. Please let us know how we can help you.

Front Page: Each day our librarians review news from around the state and the nation and select a limited number of articles to share via our news feed, Front Page. These articles are chosen for their pertinence to developments in the State House. The feed is updated each business day. If you want to receive an email reminder each day when the feed is updated, go to <http://maine.gov/legis/lawlib/frontpage.html> and click on the "Sign up for updates via email" in the upper left corner.

Digital Collection: The Law Library's collection of digitized Maine legislative materials now exceeds 2 million pages and continues to grow. In addition to our portal for the Legislative Record Archive, going back to 1897, we have added a portal for pre-1820 Massachusetts laws, which assists patrons in locating many of the laws underlying the incorporation of towns and institutions in early Maine. Our most recent portal provides access to our Legislative History collection, covering laws, bills and joint papers from the 118th through the 126th Legislatures. More portals will be added in the coming months. You can find all of our digital collection portals at www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/ldl/ldlhome.htm.

Our Long History: The first catalog of the law collection was made in 1839, as part of the original State Library listing. Some of the volumes are still in our collection after more than 175 years.



The picture on the left shows the Library when it was housed in the attic of the original State House. Later it was in what is now the Legislative Council chamber, before moving to the Law Library's





present location in 1910. The law section became the Law and Legislative Reference Library when the State Library moved outside the State House in 1971.

Update on Survey: Thanks to everyone who participated in our online patron survey earlier this year. We were gratified by the many expressions of general satisfaction with our resources and services. In addition, respondents provided valuable feedback on the types of resources that are most useful to them, as well as suggestions on areas in which we can expand our offerings. We will be reviewing and prioritizing these results for action in the coming months.

Our Staff:

Elaine Apostola, *Deputy Director*

John Barden, *Director*

Susan Beane, *Library Associate*

Alex Burnett, *Associate Law Librarian*

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We look forward to serving you!