

**CHAPTER 555****INTERBRANCH COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION****§21201. Findings**

The Legislature finds that difficulties in interactions among the executive branch, the Legislature and the judicial branch often arise from the lack of understanding of the functions, structures, needs and perspectives of the 3 separate but coequal branches of government. Increased communication and coordination in daily activities as well as in long-range planning are possible to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all 3 branches without the imposition of the views or directions of one or 2 branches upon another. The Legislature finds that active participation by the executive branch in the lawmaking process is essential to producing informed and effective legislation. The Legislature finds that the Constitution of Maine, Articles IV and V provide for shared participation in the lawmaking process and that shared responsibility has long been recognized and respected. The Legislature finds that a blanket policy by the executive branch that severely limits executive branch engagement and participation in the legislative process is contrary to these fundamental understandings and intentions underlying the Constitution of Maine and that the Governor should provide reasonably accessible information and expertise when the Legislature reasonably so requests. [PL 2019, c. 136, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 675, §C12 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 136, §1 (AMD).

**§21202. Interbranch forum**

**1. Annual interbranch forum.** Beginning in February 1995 and at least every year thereafter, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly convene an interbranch forum. [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

**2. Purpose of forum.** The purpose of the interbranch forum is to provide for discussions among the top policymakers from each branch of government to address the need for cooperation and coordination at all levels. Topics to be discussed may include, but are not limited to:

A. An integrated system of communication; [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

B. A technology plan; [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

C. Long-range planning; and [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

D. The allocation and use of resources. [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]  
[PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

**3. More frequent forums.** Representatives of the 3 branches may convene a forum as often as they determine it is appropriate. [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

**4. Expenses.** Each branch absorbs the expenses for convening and holding interbranch forums within the general operating budgets for each department. [PL 1993, c. 675, Pt. C, §12 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 675, §C12 (NEW).

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