

**CHAPTER 31****STATE HOUSE AND CAPITOL PARK COMMISSION****§901. State Capitol Commission****(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 816, §EE1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 410, §8 (RP). PL 1989, c. 503, §B6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §A5 (RP).

**§901-A. State House and Capitol Park Commission**

The State House and Capitol Park Commission, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, in this chapter called the "commission," shall consist of 11 voting members and 5 ex officio, nonvoting members who shall be appointed and shall serve as described in this section. [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

**1. Voting members; appointment.** Voting members of the commission shall be appointed as follows:

A. The Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission who shall be the permanent chair of the commission; [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

B. Six members of the public, 4 of whom shall be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 2 by the Governor; [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

C. The Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their representatives; and [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

D. The Director of the State House and Capitol Park Commission. [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]  
[PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

**2. Ex officio nonvoting members.** The ex officio nonvoting members of the commission shall be as follows:

A. The Director of the Maine State Museum; [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

B. The Director of the Maine Arts Commission; [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

C. The Director of the Bureau of General Services; [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

D. The Chair of the Capitol Planning Commission; and [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

E. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council. [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]  
[PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

**3. Terms.** Each public member shall be appointed to serve a term of 2 years. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed. A vacancy shall be filled as soon as practicable by appointment for the unexpired term in the manner of the original appointment.  
[PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

**4. Reimbursements.** Members shall serve on the commission without pay, but shall be reimbursed for their expenses and travel upon application to the Legislative Council and in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379.  
[PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

**5. Meetings; decisions; quorum.** The commission shall meet at least quarterly on the call of the chair. Decisions shall be made by a majority of those present and voting. A quorum shall be a majority of the voting members of the commission.

[PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).

#### **§901-B. Director, State House and Capitol Park Commission**

The Legislative Council shall appoint the Director of the State House and Capitol Park Commission who shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislative Council. [PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 410, §9 (NEW).

#### **§902. Duties of the commission**

**1. Plan.** The commission, with the assistance of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, shall develop and commend a plan for the preservation and development of the aesthetic and historical integrity of the State House and the grounds specified in section 902-A, subsection 2. By April 1, 1990, the commission shall submit an interim report indicating its progress on the plan to the Legislative Council and the Governor. Upon receipt of the commission's completed plan, the Legislative Council may submit the plan to the Legislature for adoption and enactment as the official state plan for the preservation and development of the aesthetic and historical integrity of the State House. From time to time the commission may submit additional amendments for inclusion in the plan which may be submitted to the Legislative Council for adoption and enactment by the Legislature.

[PL 2003, c. 316, §1 (AMD).]

**1-A. Living memorial garden.** The commission shall arrange for and oversee the development and maintenance of a living memorial garden in Capitol Park, the design of which must be consistent with the plan for the garden and double rows of trees developed for the commission in 2002 by Pressley Associates, Inc. Development of the living memorial garden is subject to available funding. The commission may seek and accept funds from private and public sources, including the Percent for Art Program, for the development and maintenance of the garden.

[PL 2003, c. 316, §2 (NEW).]

**1-B. Edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens.** The commission shall arrange for and oversee the development and implementation of a plan to incorporate food-producing plants, shrubs or trees into the landscaping of Capitol Park. Edible landscaping must be consistent with the plan for the park under section 902-A, subsection 2 and is subject to available funding for the park.

The commission may seek and accept money and food-producing seeds, plants, shrubs or trees from public and private sources for the development and maintenance of edible landscaping throughout Capitol Park and may collaborate with local, state or regional public or private entities with expertise in the design and maintenance of permaculture, edible landscaping, food forests or community gardens.

For the purposes of this subsection, "food forest" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 292, subsection 1 and "permaculture" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 292, subsection 2.

[PL 2025, c. 309, §1 (AMD).]

**1-C. Gold star family memorial.** Notwithstanding section 902-A, subsection 2, paragraph B, the commission may arrange for and oversee the development and installation of a monument honoring gold star families.

[PL 2017, c. 469, §1 (NEW).]

**1-D. Monument to victims of and first responders to COVID-19 pandemic.** Notwithstanding section 902-A, subsection 2, paragraph B, the commission may arrange for and oversee the development and installation of a monument on the exterior grounds of the State House honoring the victims of and first responders to the pandemic related to coronavirus disease 2019, known as COVID-19.

[PL 2021, c. 475, §1 (NEW).]

**1-E. Wabanaki veterans memorial.** Notwithstanding section 902-A, subsection 2, paragraph B, the commission shall arrange for and oversee the development and implementation of a memorial in a portion of Capitol Park to honor the Wabanaki's defense and protection of their homelands and their service in the United States Armed Forces. The memorial is subject to available funding for the park.

[PL 2023, c. 606, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Research; publication.** The commission shall conduct research into the history of the State House, the results of which will guide the commission and the Legislative Council in the preservation and development of the building's aesthetic and historical integrity. The commission shall publish and distribute this research to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the State House.

[PL 1989, c. 410, §10 (RPR).]

**3. Contracts.** The commission may make recommendations to the Legislative Council to enter into contracts with individuals or organizations and institutions for services to further the objectives of this chapter, including architectural, aesthetic and decorative additions or changes, in conformance with the plan adopted by the Legislative Council.

[PL 1989, c. 410, §10 (RPR).]

**4. Research; publication.**

[PL 1989, c. 410, §10 (RP).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 816, §EE1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 410, §10 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 316, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 153, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 469, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 475, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 606, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 309, §1 (AMD).

## §902-A. Jurisdiction

The Legislative Council shall have jurisdiction over: [PL 1989, c. 410, §11 (NEW).]

**1. State House.** The entire exterior and interior of the State House; and  
[PL 1989, c. 410, §11 (NEW).]

**2. Immediate grounds.** The immediate grounds, including Capitol Park, the area bounded on the east by the Kennebec River, on the north by Capitol Street, on the south by Union Street and on the west by State Street, except that the private office of the Governor, at the Governor's discretion, is exempt from this chapter.

A. To ensure that the portion of Capitol Park that is controlled by the City of Augusta remains integrated with the portion of Capitol Park that is controlled by the State, the commission may, in consultation with the City of Augusta, plan for the preservation and development of a unified park area. [PL 1989, c. 410, §11 (NEW).]

B. Any action taken with respect to Capitol Park must be consistent with the plan for Capitol Park developed by the Olmsted Brothers firm in 1920 as revised by the Pressley firm in 1990. [PL 2001, c. 468, §2 (NEW).]

The Bureau of General Services may make no architectural, aesthetic or decorative addition, deletion or change to any external or internal part of the State House or its immediate grounds under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Council unless the council has approved the change in writing in conformance with the plan adopted by the council. The Governor must be notified before the council

votes on any change. The commission may make recommendations to the council in regard to any proposed architectural, aesthetic or decorative addition, deletion or change to the internal or external part of the State House.

[PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. B, §3 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 410, §11 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 468, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. B, §3 (AMD).

#### **§903. Advice and assistance to commission**

The commission may request the assistance and advice of any state agency in the administration of its duties. Any state agency receiving a request shall render any assistance and advice to the commission. [PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. EE, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 816, §EE1 (NEW).

#### **§904. Report to the Legislature and the Governor**

The commission shall report biennially to the Legislative Council and the Governor facts and recommendations relating to the work and needs of the commission. The commission shall list all activities and projects initiated, completed or proposed during the next biennium which concern the preservation and development of the aesthetic and historical integrity of the State Capitol Building. [PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. EE, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 816, §EE1 (NEW).

#### **§905. Contributions**

The commission may accept gifts, bequests and federal funds for purposes consistent with the objectives of this chapter. These gifts, bequests and federal funds must be used solely to carry out the purposes for which they were made. Gifts may include furnishings or other artifacts. Contributions received by the commission for the purpose of major repairs or renovations to the State House may be transferred to the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance established in section 162, subsection 12-A. [PL 1993, c. 415, Pt. J, §2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 816, §EE1 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 415, §J2 (AMD).

#### **§906. Interest in contracts prohibited**

No member of the commission may be interested directly or indirectly in any contract or contracts calling for the construction or improvements of facilities, buildings and grounds in the Capitol Area in the City of Augusta as described in Title 1, section 814. [PL 1989, c. 410, §12 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 410, §12 (NEW).

#### **§907. Cooperation and information exchange**

The State House and Capitol Park Commission, the Capitol Planning Commission and the Office of the Governor shall exchange information on a regular basis, at least 2 times each year, concerning the plans, proposals and activities of each organization with respect to the facilities and grounds at the seat of government. Each organization shall cooperate with the others and coordinate their efforts. [PL 1989, c. 410, §12 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 410, §12 (NEW).

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