

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 64

H. P. 45

House of Representatives, January 11, 1967

Referred to Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bragdon of Perham.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Increasing Maine Forestry District Taxes.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, all Maine Forestry District taxes are assessed as of April 1st; and

Whereas, more money is required to protect the forests in the Maine Forestry District from fire; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**R. S., T. 12, § 1601, amended.** The first sentence of section 1601 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 22 of chapter 513 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

A tax of ~~5~~<sup>7</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 9 mills on the dollar is assessed **for the year 1967 and 8 mills thereafter** upon all the property in the Maine Forestry District, including rights in public reserved lots, to be used for the protection thereof; except that in organized municipalities the tax rate shall be ~~5~~<sup>7</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 9 mills **for the year 1967 and 8 mills thereafter** multiplied by a fraction whose numerator is the previous year's assessed value of the land taxable by the municipality, including dams and power houses but not including any other structure or building, and whose denominator

is the total previous year's assessed value of all property taxable by the municipality.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Forest fire protection in the Maine Forestry District is financed by a special landowner fire tax for the protection of approximately 10,000,000 acres of forest land in the unorganized territory of the State. No general funds are involved. Rising costs have made it necessary to request a tax increase.

Landowners with forest holdings in the Maine Forestry District have agreed upon this self-imposed tax increase.

The emergency clause in the preamble is necessary in order to receive the increased revenue this year.