

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Document No. 1837
S.P. 668 In Senate, January 4, 1984
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Ordered printed and sent down for concurrence. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland. Cosponsor: Representative Hall of Sangerville.
STATE OF MAINE
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
AN ACT to Establish a Training Program to Improve Water Quality.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4173-A is enacted to read:
§4173-A. Continuing education
1. Training. The Department of Environmental Protection shall administer a continuing educational program for people engaged in water pollution control activities. This program shall provide advanced training in the technical and legal aspects of water pollution control, and coordinate and distribute in- formation about all water pollution control training programs available in the State. The program shall be administered by and implemented through Southern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute.

1 <u>2. Funds. The department may accept funds, pub-</u> 2 lic and private, for the purposes of this section.

3 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are 4 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the 5 purposes of this Act.

1984-85

7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, 8 DEPARTMENT OF

9 All Other

\$95,000

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STATEMENT OF FACT

Recent studies by the United States Environmental 11 12 Protection Agency and the Water Pollution Control Federation indicate that up to 50% or more of 13 the 14 wastewater treatment facilities nationwide are in 15 noncompliance with their discharge permits. These 16 reports conclude that the lack of adequate operator training as a major factor contributing to noncompli-17 18 ance. Noncompliance impedes the progress made thus 19 far in achieving water guality improvement and puts 20 added financial burdens on the facility owners.

The complexity of federal and state environmental laws and regulations increases year after year, and people engaged in water pollution control activities at the local level are expected to comply. Compliance cannot be expected without accompanying these mandates with adequate training.

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