

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 804, L.D. 1092, Bill, "An Act to Provide Public Information on Forest Management Practices"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8884, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 555, §12 and affected by c. 600, Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

3. Confidentiality. Volume information contained in these reports submitted before October 1, 1997 pursuant to this section is confidential and shall may not be made public except that summary reports may be published that use aggregated data which that do not reveal the activities of an individual person or firm.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8884, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Public information. Notwithstanding Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph B, information contained in reports submitted pursuant to this section on or after October 1, 1997 is public information.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 5 and 6 and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §8885, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 555, §12 and affected by c. 600, Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2           **4. Confidentiality.** Information contained in reports filed  
 4 under this section shall prior to October 1, 1997 may not be made  
 6 public, except that summary reports may be published that use  
 8 aggregated data which that do not reveal the activities of an  
 individual person or firm. Forms submitted pursuant to this  
 section shall must be available for the use of the State Tax  
 Assessor pursuant to Title 36, chapter 105, subchapter II-A.

10           **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §8885, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

12           **4-A. Public information.** Except as provided in this  
 14 subsection and notwithstanding Title 1, section 402, subsection  
 16 3, paragraph B, information contained in reports filed under this  
 18 section on or after October 1, 1997 is public information.  
Information on stumpage prices and volumes of species harvested  
by product type for an individual landowner is confidential and  
may not be made public.

20           **Sec. 7. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated  
 22 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
<b>CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Forest Management, Utilization and</b>		
<b>Marketing</b>		
30	Positions - Legislative Count	(1.000)            (1.000)
	Personal Services	\$13,621            \$19,252
32	All Other	16,179            4,310
34	Total	<u>\$29,800            \$23,562</u>

36            Appropriates funds for one  
 38 additional Clerk Stenographer  
 40 III position and operating  
 42 costs necessary for  
 44 responding to public  
 information requests on  
 forest management practices.'

46            Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
 summary the following:

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**FISCAL NOTE**

**1997-98**                      **1998-99**

**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

General Fund                                      \$29,800                      \$23,562

The Maine Forest Service within the Department of Conservation will require additional General Fund appropriations of \$29,800 and \$23,562 in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99, respectively, for one additional Clerk Stenographer III position and necessary operating costs to process and respond to additional information requests on forest management practices.

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the minority committee report. It clarifies that volume information in wood processor reports and information in forest landowner reports submitted prior to October 1, 1997 remain confidential. It specifies that information on individual landowner reports regarding stumpage prices and volumes of species harvested by product type remains confidential. It also adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**