

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.O.S.

L.D. 192

DATE: 3/31/06

(Filing No. H- 929)

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 143, L.D. 192, Bill, "An Act To Establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 206, sub-c. 5 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 5

PINE TREE RECREATION ZONE

§5250-Q. Pine Tree Recreation Zone

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Qualified project" means a business project that meets the criteria set forth in subsection 4 conducted by a qualified industry.

B. "Qualified industry" means a for-profit corporation, limited liability company, partnership, registered limited liability partnership, sole proprietorship, business trust or any other entity, inside or outside the State, that is engaged in or will engage in a qualified project.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 2. Establishment. The Pine Tree Recreation Zone is
4 established to expand recreational opportunities and encourage
6 tourism and economic development in areas adjacent to and located
 within the State's natural resources in the central and northern
 regions of the State.

8 3. Designation of zone. The Pine Tree Recreation Zone is
10 that area of the State that is north and east of the Androscoggin
 River.

12 4. Project eligibility. A business project is eligible to
14 qualify for Pine Tree Recreation Zone benefits if the project:

16 A. Is located within the Pine Tree Recreation Zone and is
18 in a labor market area with a population density of less
 than 30 people per square mile according to the last Federal
 Decennial Census; and

20 B. Derives at least 50% of its business from sustainable
22 recreational or agricultural tourism activities that involve
24 the use of available natural resources and provides at least
 one of the following services:

(1) Accommodations;

(2) Guiding or instructional services; and

(3) The sale or rental of equipment for use in
30 canoeing, kayaking, hunting, fishing, sailing,
32 whitewater rafting, hiking, wildlife photography,
34 snowmobiling, dog sledding, snowshoeing, downhill or
 cross-country skiing, camping activities or other
 similar nature-based tourism activities.

36 5. Administration; rules. The Commissioner of Economic and
38 Community Development shall administer this subchapter and shall
40 adopt rules for the implementation of this subchapter. Rules
42 adopted under this subsection are major substantive rules as
44 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The
 commissioner is authorized to adopt rules setting forth the
 process by which qualified projects may apply for funding from
 grants and loans, including loans administered by the Finance
 Authority of Maine through its economic recovery loan program.

46 **Sec. 2. Development of strategic plan.** The Department of
48 Economic and Community Development shall convene at least 4
 meetings with representatives of departments and stakeholder
 associations to gather information on the most effective methods

2008

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2 for attracting, retaining and developing natural resource-based
3 industries and nature-based tourism in central and northern
4 Maine, as well as to structure the eligibility criteria and
5 benefit structure for Pine Tree Recreation Zone program
6 participants and qualified projects. The Department of Economic
7 and Community Development shall include in these meetings the
8 Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the
9 Department of Conservation, the Department of Inland Fisheries
10 and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental Protection, the
11 Department of Marine Resources and statewide associations that
12 have an interest in nature-based tourism in central and northern
13 Maine and in farming and agricultural tourism. The Commissioner
14 of Economic and Community Development shall use this information
15 to develop a strategic plan for attracting, retaining and
16 expanding new and existing natural resource-based industries and
17 nature-based tourism in central and northern Maine that must
18 include a proposal for program benefits using loans and state
19 grant programs. The commissioner shall report by February 15,
20 2007 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
21 jurisdiction over business, research and economic development
22 matters on the details of this strategic plan for the Pine Tree
23 Recreation Zone. The joint standing committee of the Legislature
24 having jurisdiction over business, research and economic
25 development matters is authorized to report out legislation on
26 the strategic plan to the First Regular Session of the 123rd
27 Legislature.

28 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** That section of this Act that enacts
29 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 206, subchapter 5
30 takes effect January 1, 2008.

32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
33 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved, unless otherwise
34 indicated.'

36 **SUMMARY**

38 This amendment replaces the bill and establishes the Pine
39 Tree Recreation Zone as that area of the State north and east of
40 the Androscoggin River. It defines "qualified industry" as any
41 for-profit corporation, limited liability company, partnership,
42 registered limited liability partnership, sole proprietorship,
43 business trust or any other entity, inside or outside the State,
44 that is engaged in or will engage in a qualified Pine Tree
45 Recreation Zone project. To be eligible as a qualified project,
46 a business project must be located within the Pine Tree
47 Recreation Zone and be in a labor market area with a population
48 density of less than 30 people per square mile, according to the
49 last Federal Decennial Census, and must derive at least 50% of
50 its business from sustainable recreational or agricultural

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2 tourism activities that involve the use of available natural
resources and provide accommodations, guiding or instructional
4 services or the sale or rental of equipment for use in canoeing,
kayaking, hunting, fishing, sailing, whitewater rafting, hiking,
6 wildlife photography, snowmobiling, dog sledding, snowshoeing,
downhill or cross-country skiing, camping activities or other
8 similar nature-based tourism activities. The amendment
authorizes the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
10 to adopt major substantive rules and establishes an effective
date of January 1, 2008 for the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
12 30-A, chapter 206, subchapter 5.

14 This amendment requires the Department of Economic and
Community Development, to convene meetings with representatives
16 of departments and stakeholder associations to gather information
on the most effective methods of attracting, retaining and
18 developing natural resource-based industries and nature-based
tourism in central and northern Maine and to structure the
20 eligibility criteria and benefits that will be provided to
qualified projects. It requires the Commissioner of Economic and
22 Community Development to use this information to develop a
strategic plan for attracting, retaining and expanding new and
24 existing natural resource-based industries and nature-based
tourism in central and northern Maine that must include a
26 proposal for program benefits using loans and state grant
programs. It also requires the commissioner to report by
28 February 15, 2007 to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and
30 economic development matters on the details of this strategic
plan for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone. It also authorizes the
32 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
over business, research and economic development matters to
34 report out legislation on this issue to the First Regular Session
of the 123rd Legislature.

36
38 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 192

LR 0525(02)

An Act To Establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This fiscal note assumes that the intent of this legislation is to establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone and to require the Department of Economic and Community Development to adopt rules to administer the program and to develop a strategic plan including a proposal for program benefits that utilizes loans and state grant programs. Additional costs to the Department of Economic and Community Development associated with rulemaking and developing the required plan can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.