

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 63

H.P. 29

House of Representatives, January 13, 2021

An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation extends liability protection for the State and firefighters who
4 travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the Northeastern Interstate Forest
5 Fire Protection Compact area; and

6 **Whereas,** it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order that the
7 liability protection be extended as soon as possible; and

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

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

13 **Sec. 1. P&SL 1949, c. 75, §1** is amended by adding at the end a new Article to read:

14 **ARTICLE XV**

15 The provisions of Article IX that relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or
16 preventing forest fires are operative as between any member state and any other state that
17 is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region, as long as the
18 legislature of that other state has given its consent to those mutual aid provisions of this
19 compact.

20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
21 takes effect when approved.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 Currently, all the New England states, New York and the Canadian provinces of
24 Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Maritimes make up the Northeastern
25 Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. This bill extends liability protection for the State
26 and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the compact
27 area.