

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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August 2, 1967

Austin H. Wilkins, Commissioner

Forestry

Leon V. Walker, Jr., Assistant

Attorney General

Workmen's Compensation for Maine Forestry District Firefighters

Because a severe forest fire could cause severe injuries to Forestry District firefighters, with a consequent severe drain on the District's funds, you and the landowners desire to protect the funds by taking out Workmen's Compensation insurance.

An immediate objection was that the State cannot insure a portion of its personnel, and be a self-insurer of the remainder. The situation with the Forestry District, however, should not be compared with that of some other department of State government, for by P. & S. L. 1909, Chapter 193, the legislature "established and incorporated" the Maine Forestry District, making it a separate entity.

It is the opinion of this office, therefore, that the Forest District may properly protect itself by insuring.

Leon V. Walker, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

LWVJr:H

cc: Hon. Harold A. Towle