

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

VE
C.1

INITIATIVE QUESTION

In Accordance with a Direct Initiated Bill

"Shall an Initiated Bill Entitled 'AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area', Become Law?"

(Including a Brief Explanatory Statement by the
Attorney General as to Intent and Content.)



MARKHAM L. GARTLEY
Secretary of State

1976

To be Voted Upon at the Special Election,
Tuesday, June 8, 1976

STATE OF MAINE
Initiative Question to be Voted Upon
June 8, 1976

A person who destroys or defaces a specimen ballot before the election to which it pertains is over, shall have committed a Class E crime.

MARKHAM L. GARTLEY, Secretary of State

SPECIMEN BALLOT

Those in favor of the following Initiative question will place a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) in the square marked "YES" opposite the question for which they desire to vote; those opposed will place a cross (X) or a check mark (✓) in the opposite square marked "NO."

| INITIATIVE QUESTION | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| "Shall an Initiated Bill Entitled 'AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area', Become Law?" | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A "YES" VOTE favors the acquisition of land containing approximately 40,000 acres in Franklin and Somerset Counties for a public preserve to be known as the Bigelow Preserve.

A "NO" VOTE opposes the action.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area

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

Sec. 1. Bigelow Preserve. The Department of Conservation, including the several bureaus and agencies therein, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game are hereby authorized and directed to acquire approximately 40,000 acres of land on and around Bigelow Mountain in Franklin and Somerset Counties for a public preserve to be known as the Bigelow Preserve. The Preserve shall include generally all land in Wyman and North One Half township north of Stratton Brook and Stratton Brook Pond, and all land in Dead River township south and east of Flagstaff Lake. All public lots within or contiguous to this area shall be included within the Bigelow Preserve.

Sec. 2. Administration and Acquisition. The Preserve shall be administered by the Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Game. These Departments shall seek and use funds for the acquisition of the land necessary for the Bigelow Preserve from state bond issues and appropriations, federal funds, and other sources now or hereafter available to them. Acquisition shall be coordinated by the Department of Conservation. Sufficient property rights and interests shall be acquired to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 3. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to set aside land to be retained in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of the public. The Preserve shall be managed for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and hunting, and for timber harvesting. Timber harvesting within the Preserve shall be carried out in a manner approved by the Bureau of Forestry and consistent with the area's scenic beauty and natural features. All motor vehicles, not including vehicles engaged in timber harvesting, shall be restricted to roads designated for their use, except that snowmobiles shall also be allowed on designated trails. Designated roads shall be limited to those easily accessible to automobiles as of the effective date of this Act. No buildings, ski lifts, power transmission facilities, or other structures shall be built in the Preserve except for open trail shelters, essential service facilities, temporary structures used in timber harvesting, small signs, and other small structures that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve.

**STATE OF MAINE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR**

WHEREAS, written petitions bearing the signatures of 43,647 electors of this State, which number is in excess of ten percent of the total vote cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State within forty-five days after the convening of the One Hundred and Seventh Legislature in regular session, requesting that the Legislature consider a bill entitled: "AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area"; and

WHEREAS, the petitioning electors further requested that should the Legislature not enact said measure without change, that said measure be referred to the people at a Special Election ordered by Proclamation of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 1975 the Senate voted that the measure 'Ought Not to Pass' and on June 9, 1975 the House voted to 'Indefinitely Postpone' the measure; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, such election may be held not less than four nor more than six months from the date of this Proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James B. Longley, Governor of the State of Maine, acting under the provisions of Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, do proclaim that a special election shall be called for the second Tuesday in June, being the eighth day of the month, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-six.



Given at the office of the Governor at Augusta, and sealed with the Great Seal of the State of Maine, this nineteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the Two Hundredth.

JAMES B. LONGLEY
Governor

By the Governor:

MARKHAM L. GARTLEY
Secretary of State

The following is a brief explanatory statement prepared by the Attorney General in accordance with the provisions of 1 M.R.S.A. § 353, with reference to the Intent and Content of "AN ACT to Establish a Public Preserve in the Bigelow Mountain Area."

INTENT

The purpose of this initiated Act is to set aside land on and around Bigelow Mountain to be retained in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of the public, as a public preserve to be managed for outdoor recreation in such activities as hiking, camping, fishing and hunting, canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling, and for timber harvesting.

CONTENT

The Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are authorized and directed to acquire approximately 40,000 acres of land on and around Bigelow Mountain in Franklin and Somerset Counties for a public preserve to be known as the Bigelow Preserve.

The Preserve shall include generally all land in Wyman and North One Half townships north of Stratton Brook and Stratton Brook Pond, and all land in Dead River township south and east of Flagstaff Lake, and all public lots within or contiguous to this area.

The Preserve shall be administered by the above Departments, which shall seek and use funds for acquisition of the land from State bond issues and appropriations, federal funds, and other sources now or hereafter available to them, such acquisition to be coordinated by the Department of Conservation.

The Preserve shall be managed for outdoor recreation, such as hiking, fishing and hunting, and for timber harvesting.

Timber harvesting shall be carried out in a manner approved by the Bureau of Forestry and consistent with the area's scenic beauty and natural features.

Motor vehicles shall be restricted to roads designated for their use, and snowmobiles shall be allowed on designated trails.

Designated roads shall be limited to those easily accessible to automobiles as of the effective date of this Act.

No buildings, ski lifts, power transmission facilities, or other structures shall be built in the Preserve except for open trail shelters, essential service facilities, temporary structures used in timber harvesting, small signs and other small structures that are in keeping with the undeveloped character of the Preserve.