

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 177**

H. P. 134

House of Representatives, January 10, 1963

Referred to Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Bragdon of Perham.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Imposing a Tax on the Unorganized Territory within the Maine Forestry District for Spruce Budworm Control.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment; and

Whereas, a severe outbreak of spruce budworm has developed in the forests of northern Maine, threatening the destruction of one of Maine's outstanding natural resources; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to control this outbreak so as to save 470,000 acres of Maine forest; and

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

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

**R. S., c. 36, § 96, amended.** Section 96 of chapter 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding after the first sentence, a new sentence to read as follows:

**'Such tax shall be increased by 2¼ mills on the dollar assessed only for the year 1963 upon all the property in the unorganized territory located within the Maine Forestry District, including rights in public reserved lots, to be used by the Forestry Department for spruce budworm control.'**

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

A tax of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  mills is assessed on the property valuation of the areas making up the Maine Forestry District. The purpose of this amendment to the Forestry District tax law is to provide that for 1963 only an additional tax of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  mills shall be imposed upon the Forestry District area, excepting from the tax the property in such organized towns as are in the district.

The money so raised would meet the private landowners' share or  $37\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the \$564,000 cost for spruce budworm control; an additional  $37\frac{1}{2}\%$  is requested from state funds, and the remaining 25% is to come from the Federal Government.

A  $2\frac{1}{4}$  mill tax, based on the valuation of \$92,167,490 of unorganized territory and public lots within the Maine Forestry District, would yield \$207,377. The additional sum of \$4,123 to total \$211,500 would be taken from a balance of the Forestry District Budworm-Reserve Fund.

Apportionment of cost would be as follows:

Federal	25%	\$141,000
State	$37\frac{1}{2}\%$	211,500
Maine Forestry District	$37\frac{1}{2}\%$	211,500
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		\$564,000