

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 190

H. P. 169

House of Representatives, January 14, 1965

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

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Increasing Maine Forestry District Taxes.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, all Maine Forestry District taxes are assessed as of April 1st; and

Whereas, more money is required to protect the forests in the Maine Forestry District from fire; 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., T. 12, § 1601, amended. The first sentence of section 1601 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'A tax of ~~4 $\frac{3}{4}$~~ 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ mills on the dollar is assessed upon all the property in the Maine Forestry District, including rights in public reserved lots, to be used for the protection thereof; except that in organized municipalities the tax rate shall be ~~4 $\frac{3}{4}$~~ 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ mills multiplied by a fraction whose numerator is the previous year's assessed value of the land taxable by the municipality, including dams and power houses but not including any other structure or building, and whose denominator

shall be the total previous year's assessed value of all property taxable by the municipality.'

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Forest fire protection in the Maine Forestry District is financed by a special landowner fire tax for the protection of approximately 10,000,000 acres of forest land in the unorganized territory of the State. No general funds are involved. Rising costs of labor, utilities, purchases of equipment and building materials, merit increases, longevity benefits and withholding for retirement have made it necessary to request a tax increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Landowners with forest holdings in the Maine Forestry District have agreed upon this self-imposed tax increase.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ mill will amount to about \$56,000 annually, based on the state valuation of about \$112,338,000 in the Maine Forestry District of about 10,000,000 acres.

The emergency clause in the preamble is necessary in order to receive the increased revenue this year.