

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1760

H. P. 1265

House of Representatives, January 17, 1966

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Healy of Portland and Mr. Pike of Lubec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX

**RESOLVE, Providing Funds for Reimbursement of Fire Cost and for Estimated
Fire Costs.**

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

Whereas, since there were so many fires in 1965, the Forestry Department exhausted the appropriated funds used for fire costs and it was necessary to have funds made available from the Contingent Account and the Maine Forestry District; and

Whereas, the funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 for fire costs has been exhausted; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to protect one of Maine's most important natural resources and to reimburse the Contingent Account and the Maine Forestry District for funds already used; 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

Appropriation. Resolved: That there is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$200,000 to the Forestry Department for reimbursement of fire costs and for estimated 1966 spring fire season costs. This appropriation shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1967.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The appropriation will be used as follows :

1. \$50,000 reimbursement to the Contingency Account, which amount was made available to meet current fire costs.
2. \$125,000 reimbursement to the Maine Forestry District, which amount used by the district to pay all bills on the Centerville fire, and prorated the costs of Marshfield and Whitneyville on a formula based on perimeter, acres and costs.
3. \$25,000 for estimated spring fire season costs for 1966, the appropriation for which having already been expended.

Many of the forest fires this past season were expensive due to very dry conditions which tied up men and equipment for longer than usual periods before final extinguishment. Labor costs and equipment rates were higher and other contributing factors added to the total costs.

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