

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1331

H. P. 971

House of Representatives, March 4, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Herrick of Harmony.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Water Quality Standards.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 38, § 363, amended. Section 363 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 4 of chapter 475 of the public laws of 1967, and as amended by sections 1 and 2 of chapter 431 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read as follows:

With respect to all classifications set forth in this section, the commission by regulation shall establish and may amend standards limiting the discharge of nutrients, including but not limited to phosphorus, nitrogen or any compound thereof, or of heated effluent, into fresh waters, so as to achieve and maintain such classifications.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 38, § 364, amended. Section 364 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 5 of chapter 475 of the public laws of 1967, and as amended, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read as follows:

With respect to all classifications set forth in this section, the commission by regulation shall establish and may amend standards limiting the discharge of nutrients, including but not limited to phosphorus, nitrogen or any compound thereof, or of heated effluent, into tidal or marine waters, so as to achieve and maintain such classifications.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to permit the Environmental Improvement Commission to adopt regulations limiting the discharge of nutrients such as

phosphates and nitrates and heated effluent into waters of the State. Phosphates and nitrates are algae nutrients and unless regulated, continued discharge of these substances into waters will cause massive algae growth, which turns the waters soupy, green and makes them unfit for recreational use. Heated effluent can adversely affect fish reproduction and cause other undesirable ecological side effects.