

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1508

H. P. 1102

House of Representatives, March 12, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Donaghy of Lubec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to the Parks and Recreation Department.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 602, amended. The first 2 paragraphs of section 602 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The Parks and Recreation Department, hereinafter in this Title called the "department," is hereby established and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are set forth in this Title. The Parks and Recreation Department shall consist of a Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, hereinafter called the "commissioner," and such official and clerical staff as are provided for. The Maine State Park and Recreation Commission is hereby abolished and all the powers, duties, responsibilities and functions of any kind or nature, which have been, until this enactment, reposed in the Maine State Park and Recreation Commission by any laws whatsoever, are hereby vested in the commissioner. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint a commissioner of Parks and Recreation whenever a vacancy occurs. The commissioner shall hold office during the tenure of the Governor and shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualified.

The department shall have jurisdiction, custody and control in, over and upon all state parks and memorials and national parks which are under control and management of the State, excepting Baxter State Park. Wilderness or natural areas, or both, shall be established and managed primarily to preserve the natural character and features of such areas, and any use or development which threatens such character and features shall be prohibited. It is not the intention of the Legislature to include under this chapter any national

parks now existing or which may be hereafter created under national management or control. Said department shall have and exercise the following powers and authority:

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall be effective on January 1, 1972. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint a Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to assume office on January 1, 1972.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Bill enables the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, to appoint the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. Elimination of the Maine State Park and Recreation Commission and vesting all of its former powers in the commissioner will provide the Governor with a department head fully responsible for that department and more responsive to the wishes of the Governor and of the electorate.