

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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New Draft of: H. P. 787, L. D. 1063

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1721

H. P. 1313

House of Representatives, May 10, 1971

Reported by Mr. Farrington from Committee on State Government and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Acceptance of Gifts and Purchases of State Lands.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 512, amended. The first sentence of section 512 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The commissioner may, with the advice and consent of the Governor and Council, purchase, when funds are available from bequests or trusts other than bequests made or inter vivos trusts created by the late Percival Proctor Baxter, or accept on the part of the State gifts of parcels or tracts of land to the State, or may purchase land in the name of the State for state forest purposes and may also designate and set aside such lands or portions thereof as natural areas. The commissioner may not under this section acquire title by purchase to more than 4% of the land area within any one municipality without the written consent of the municipal officers thereof.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 12, § 512, amended. Section 512 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following paragraphs:

“Natural areas” means limited areas of land which have retained their wilderness character, although not necessarily completely natural and undisturbed, or have rare or vanishing species of plant or animal life or similar features of interest which are worthy of preservation for the use of present and future residents of the State.

Natural areas held by the State shall include and be designated as one or

more of the following 3 types, and the location of each shall be described in the designation:

Type 1. Semiwilderness areas which by their size or location offer the experience of solitude and self-reliance. Whereas lands at the higher elevations are important for protection of watersheds, are ecologically vulnerable if unwisely altered by human interference, and often may be uneconomic for logging or construction, it is hereby found that such lands generally may be suitable for this classification.

Type 2. Units of importance for all the natural sciences, especially ecology, and with outstanding value for education and research and for the appreciation of natural processes. Preservation in the desired condition shall be the prevailing purpose of such holdings. Visitation shall be regulated so as to ensure this preservation on a permanent basis.

Type 3. Areas which are not of ecological or semiwilderness stature, but which have the appearance of being in an untouched natural state, or which are capable of attaining that appearance if held and managed for this purpose.

On natural areas of Type 1, 2 or 3 all land uses and practices shall be subject to regulations of the department to carry out the purposes of this legislation to manage or maintain the areas for the preservation of their natural condition. Areas designated under these classifications can be removed from such designation only by approval of the commissioner, with the advice and consent of the Governor and Council, following public notice and hearing.