

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 25

H. P. 25

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 5, 1972 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. Dyar of Strong. To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 106th Legislature.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dyar of Strong.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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AN ACT Relating to the Public Reserved Lots in the Unorganized  
Territory.

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

Whereas, timber in the unorganized territory is a vital Maine product; and

Whereas, there is much confusion and uncertainty as to the status of Maine's public reserved lots; and

Whereas, the following legislation is vitally necessary to resolve these uncertainties and to administer the public reserved lots for the enhanced benefit of the people of Maine; 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. 30, § 4169, additional. Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4169 to read as follows:

§ 4169. Townships as organized towns

All unorganized townships in the several counties within the State shall become organized towns for a period of 48 hours commencing at 12:01 a.m.,

**July 1, 1973.** During this period of transition the timber and grass rights on the public lots shall revert to the towns. The county commissioners in the several counties shall maintain the same powers and authority that would normally be within their jurisdiction. After the 48-hour period the towns involved would revert to an unorganized status.

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

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The organization of all unincorporated towns would revert the public lots and timber and grass rights back to the town. This should enable the State to start with a new approach to our public lots without being restricted by acts of past Legislatures relative to the selling of timber and grass.