

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1028

S. P. 324

In Senate, February 21, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Speers of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE**

**AN ACT Providing for Legislative Purpose and Intent in Regulating
Wetlands.**

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

R. S., T. 12, § 4700, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4700 to read as follows:

§ 4700. Purpose and intent

The Legislature finds that the wetlands of the State are among the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources in that commercial and anadromous fish, waterfowl and valuable nutrients important in the life cycle of shellfish and marine worms are dependent upon coastal wetlands. There is a great concern throughout the State relating to their utilization, protection and conservation. The Legislature further finds that the continued destruction of the State's wetlands will be detrimental to the commercial fishing industry of the State, sports fishing and hunting and to the overall economy and welfare of the State.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a means whereby state and local officials may take action to protect the wetlands of the State in such a manner as will best preserve the needs of all citizens and in a manner consistent with the maintenance and conservation of the wetlands environment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to add an expression of legislative intent and purpose to the laws regulating the State's valuable wetlands in order that the public and courts will understand why the Act exists and is enforced.