

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1110

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H. P. 817 House of Representatives, February 22, 1973  
Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence  
and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Huber of Falmouth.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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AN ACT to Enable the Department of Environmental Protection to Study  
the Groundwater Problem of the State.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 38, c. 14, additional. Title 38 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 14 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 14  
GROUNDWATER

§ 1401. Purpose

The Legislature finds that the groundwater of the State is a natural resource that is in need of conservation and that said resource may be endangered by mismanagement and pollution; and declares that the preservation and enhancement of groundwater resources are a matter of high priority.

§ 1402. Studies and reports

The Board of Environmental Protection is authorized, empowered and directed to conduct such research as may be necessary relative to pollution and contamination of the groundwater of the State and shall make a report of its findings not later than to the 107th Legislature meeting in regular session. Such research may include the sources of groundwater pollution, its effects on groundwater, methods of abating, preventing or regulating such pollutants and techniques for conserving and protecting groundwater.

§ 1403. Coordination

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is authorized to consolidate existing research, planning, investigations or other projects conducted

by public agencies of the State which are necessary to perform the duties required by this chapter.

§ 1404. Federal funds

The Department of Environmental Protection is designated as the agency of the State authorized to accept federal funds for the purposes of this chapter and make such expenditures and enter into such contracts as it deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

§ 1405. Protection of groundwater; prohibition against waste disposal

No person shall directly pump, inject, deposit or otherwise discharge or cause or allow to be discharged any waste, refuse, effluent, pollutant or toxic substance into the soil, subsoil or rock formations underlying the soil except as permitted by the Maine State Plumbing Code or other applicable statutes and regulations.

This prohibition shall not apply to any system for the disposal of waste, refuse or effluent which is permitted by state license or permit; to the disposal of waste, refuse or effluent or pollutants on the surface of the soil; or to fertilizer, lime, soil amendments or other products used in the practice of horticulture, arboriculture or agriculture.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes of this Act the sum of \$50,000. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personnel Services	\$17,000	\$18,000
All Other	7,000	8,000
	<u>\$24,000</u>	<u>\$26,000</u>

Any unexpended balance will be carried forward to the 1974-75 fiscal year.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

Groundwater pollution is becoming a widespread and serious health hazard and groundwater, which may take as long as 10,000 years to cleanse itself of pollutants, is in many places becoming unsafe for human consumption.

In some areas, this problem is greatly compounded by the use of injection wells to dispose of waste many feet below the soil surface. This bill would prohibit such method of disposal until the Department of Environmental Protection is able to study the problem of groundwater pollution in Maine and report its findings no later than to the 107th Legislature.