

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2567

H. P. 2026

House of Representatives, March 8, 1974

Reported by Majority from the Committee on Natural Resources and
printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT Authorizing a Study of Maine's Forest Resources and of
Opportunities for their Better Utilization.**

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

Sec. 1. Commission; duties. A special commission shall be constituted and appointed to study the forest resources of the State of Maine and to study the opportunities for their better utilization; including without limitation, analysis of the forest resources, study of incentives for small forest land owners, study of incentive programs for small forest products industries, study of the present and prospective impact of the Tree Growth Tax Law as to equity, administration and its effect upon forest practices and forest product utilization, study of the adequacy of the labor supply for work operations, including study of the economic impact upon Maine of the Canadian bonded labor program, study of the contribution which the education system of the State can contribute to the labor situation, and study of any laws or regulations or policies of agencies or instrumentalities of the State which are written or administered in a manner which assist or discourage the forest products industry and forest landowners in achieving better utilization of the forest resources of Maine.

The commission shall hold such public hearings as may be deemed necessary to obtain information with respect to these subjects. The commission shall have full access to all of the records of the various state agencies for the purpose of this study.

The commission shall make a written report of its findings and include applicable specific recommendations with respect thereto. The commission

shall issue its report not later than December 1, 1976. The commission shall be available after the issuance of its report in order to answer questions respecting the report and shall continue in existence for those purposes until February 1, 1977 and no longer.

Sec. 2. Membership. The membership of the commission shall be constituted and appointed as follows: Two members shall be members of the Senate in the 106th Maine Legislature, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one from each party; 2 members shall be members of the House of Representatives in the 106th Maine Legislature, one from each party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and there shall be 6 additional members to be appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom shall have a background of experience in the forest products industry, one of whom shall be a small forest landowner who falls under the Tree Growth Tax Law, and one of whom shall be a member of the faculty of the School of Forestry of the University of Maine and 3 public members, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council.

The Director of the Bureau of Forestry shall serve on the commission in an advisory capacity only. Each member shall serve until the commission shall have completed its work or until his prior death or resignation. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, his place shall be filled, upon the written notice thereof from the commission, by the then President of the Senate, Speaker of the House or Governor, as the case may be, in the same manner as with respect to the original appointment.

Sec. 3. Meetings. The said commission shall be appointed promptly upon enactment hereof and the Governor shall notify all members of the time and place of the first meeting. At that time, the commission shall organize, elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer, adopt rules as to the administration of the commission and its affairs, which rules shall require a minimum of 15 days' notice of any public hearing to consider the subject of this study. The commission shall maintain minutes of its meetings and such financial records as may be required by the State Auditor.

Sec. 4. Reimbursement of expenses. Each member of the commission shall be entitled to receive \$25 per day for compensation of the time actually spent in the performance of his duties and actual travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his duties.

Sec. 5. Federal and other funds. The commission shall be authorized, on behalf of the State, to solicit and accept funds from the Federal Government and from foundations and other charitable institutions to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 6. Cooperation of state agencies. The commission shall be entitled to the full cooperation of all agencies and instrumentalities of the State, including provision of personnel, information and services as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 7. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to create a commission to study the forest resources of the State of Maine and the opportunities for their better utilization.

It is also the purpose of this bill to provide for a thorough, impartial and high quality study of this subject, so as to contribute to an improved State approach to these subjects and to answer the questions which have arisen in public debate over these subjects.