

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1933

H. P. 1700

House of Representatives, June 13, 1975

Referred to Committee on Marine Resources. Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills pursuant to Joint Rule 10.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Authorize the Board of Environmental Protection to
Regulate the Anchorage of Tankers in Casco Bay.

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

38 MRSA § 546-B is enacted to read:

§ 546-B. Tankers in anchorage

The Board of Environmental Protection shall within 90 days after the effective date of this Act adopt regulations limiting or, to the extent the board deems necessary, prohibiting the anchorage in Casco Bay of vessels designed to carry oil as cargo. As used in this section, the term "oil" shall include petroleum, petroleum products and petroleum by-products. The purpose of such regulations shall be to protect the coastal waters, tidal flats, beaches and lands adjoining the coast of Casco Bay from the intentional or accidental discharge of oil. In adopting these regulations, the board's consideration shall include, but not be limited to, the type and capacity of vessels permitted to anchor in Casco Bay, the locations in Casco Bay where anchorage of these vessels will ensure that no discharge of oil occurs because of grounding or collision with another vessel, the safety systems and precautions available to ensure that a discharge of oil does not take place, the duration of proposed anchorage for each vessel, the required training and availability of sufficient crew members aboard the vessel to ensure that a discharge of oil does not take place and the existence of contingency plans to ensure that accidents and acts of God, including fire and foul weather, will not cause discharge of oil.

The board shall cooperate with the United States Coast Guard in adopting, implementing and administering regulations under this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill authorizes the Board of Environmental Protection to regulate the anchorage of oil tankers in Casco Bay in order to prevent the dangers of oil pollution in that bay. At present, the board has little jurisdiction over such anchorage and the imminent plan of several tanker corporations to anchor tankers in Casco Bay makes this authority necessary if the marine environment of that bay is to be protected.