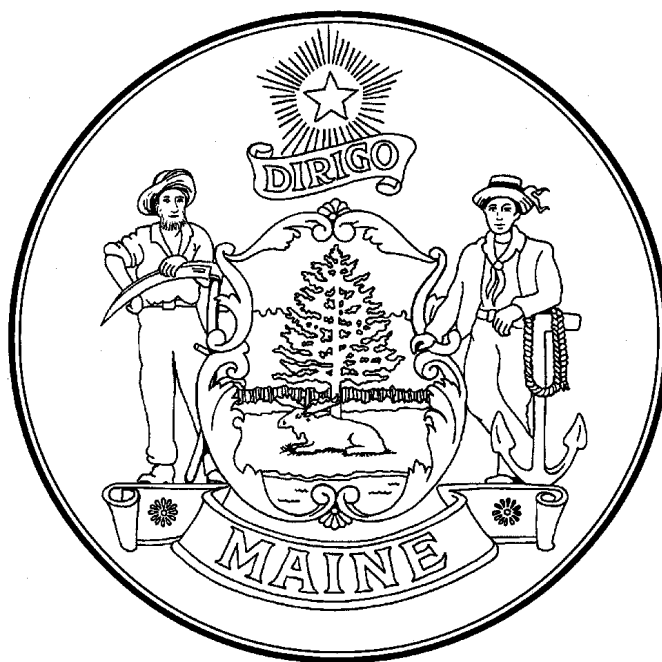


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2034

H. P. 1863

House of Representatives, January 21, 1976

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

RESOLVE, to Appropriate Moneys for Initial Research on Environmentally Safe Insecticidal Control of Blackflies.

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

Whereas, blackflies in recent years have grown from a springtime pest to a major nuisance lasting the whole summer, due to the presence of a new species, and cause much suffering and in some cases serious illness; and

Whereas, blackflies by their biting activity cause economic harm by inhibiting full economic development of resort areas, making outdoor work less efficient, and possibly decreasing profits from fowl and livestock; and

Whereas, several towns of the Penobscot River watershed, whose citizens suffered severely from blackflies during the past few years, voted funds for blackfly control but could not use the money because there was no technology available for such control; and

Whereas, entomologists at the Department of Entomology, University of Maine at Orono, are establishing a research program on blackfly control, partially funded extramurally, which will fall short of full funding by \$20,146 during the 1976-77 fiscal year; 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

Research on environmentally safe insecticidal control of blackflies, appropriation. Resolved: That this special session of the 107th Legislature allocate from the General Fund \$20,146 for the purpose of supporting initial research directed by members of the University of Maine staff on environmentally safe insecticidal control of blackflies, on locating streams where blackflies would be susceptible to control and on quantitating economic damage caused by blackflies and the cost benefits which might accrue from such control.

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

FISCAL NOTE

It is expected that funds appropriated by this resolve will be expended as follows:

Personal Services	\$14,000
All Other	4,396
Capital Expenditures	1,750
Total	\$20,146

STATEMENT OF FACT

The efficacy of Abate, a relatively safe insecticide for control of blackfly larvae and the environmental hazards of this material, will be evaluated to meet requirements for federal and state-use registration. Testing will include extensive monitoring of nontarget invertebrates, fish and insecticide residues in addition to determining minimum effective levels of Abate for control. Test applications of the insecticide will be made by helicopter. This work is necessary since no insecticide is registered for blackfly control in Maine and Abate has the potential for being effective, yet in other uses has demonstrated little hazard to the environment.

A survey of the distribution of the new blackfly species, at present called *Simulium nyssa*, and other pest species will be made. This data is needed in order to know where tests of control methods can be done and, after the procedures are perfected, in which streams treatment would be most effective in alleviating blackfly biting.

The recent increases in both the intensity and duration of the blackfly infestation has raised this problem to that of a major nuisance. This study will identify situations where blackflies are likely to have an economic impact. An attempt will be made to estimate the extent of these potential impacts. In addition, the investigation will also be directed toward evaluating, in economic terms, the nuisance aspect of the blackfly infestation.

To carry out the above research, the sum of \$20,146 is necessary to assure full funding of this project.