

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

H. P. 1885 House of Representatives, January 22, 1976 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Mr. Morton of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Allow Certain Mining Operations within the Sandy River and Temple Stream without a Permit from the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

12 MRSA § 2212, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 623, § 9, is further amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

This subchapter shall not apply to gravel, sand and loam mining within and of the banks of the Sandy River and Temple Stream within the limits of the Town of Farmington and for the duration of the town's authority.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Sandy River and Temple Stream in Farmington contain valuable mineral deposits which have been an important source of income for generations. All available evidence indicates that the mining operations within the Sandy River have had little or no adverse effects on spawning grounds or the river environment. There is, however, ample evidence to indicate that failure to mine certain sand and gravel bars and to keep certain channels clear of gravel causes the river to divert into intervale cropland and steep slopes resulting in the loss of valuable acreage, massive erosion and siltation of the river.

The present regulation of Sandy River mining operations is hampering the proper mining of the river and is causing undue hardship to mining opera-

No. 2063

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENT No. 2063

tors and their dependents. It is felt that proper regulation of gravel, sand and loam mining within and of the banks of the Sandy River, consistent with the health and welfare of the people of Farmington and with the proper maintenance of the river environment can be better administered through local municipal agencies. This Act permits this type of local regulation.

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