

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2180

S. P. 681

In Senate, February 5, 1976

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pray of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Establish an Experimental Blackfly Control Program.

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

22 MRSA § 1472 is enacted to read:

§ 1472. Experimental blackfly control program

1. Established; requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Board of Pesticides Control shall establish and administer an experimental program of blackfly (family simuliidae) control under the following requirements.

A. The Board of Pesticides Control shall authorize, from among suitable applicants, 2 municipalities in Piscataquis County, one municipality in Northern Penobscot County and one municipality from any portion of Penobscot County which shall be permitted to use the pesticide "Abate" to control blackflies within their municipal boundaries.

B. The use of the pesticide authorized by this section shall not require any approval by the Board of Pesticides Control, nor shall it require a solid waste disposal permit from the Department of Environmental Protection.

C. No sprayer shall apply the pesticide authorized under this section unless he is licensed by the Board of Pesticides Control.

D. The municipalities chosen by the Board of Pesticides Control shall bear the cost of purchase and application of the pesticide authorized under this section.

2. State funds for research. In the event that any state funds are appropriated for research on the blackfly while this section is effective, part or all of these funds shall be used for monitoring the effects of this experimental project upon the blackfly population in the municipalities where the pesticide application authorized by this section is made.

3. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to monitor effects on fish. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall, using existing funds and programs, monitor the effects of the application of the pesticide authorized by this section upon the fish population of Maine.

4. Effective duration of section. This section shall be effective only until November 30, 1978.

5. Report to Natural Resources Committee. The Board of Pesticides Control shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources of the Legislature no later than 14 days after the beginning of the Second Regular Session to be held in 1978 as to the effectiveness, environmental effects and recommendations for lesser or increased future use of the pesticide whose use is authorized by this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill authorizes an experimental program in 4 northern Maine communities of the pesticide "Abate" in an effort to control the blackfly population, which has become a threat to the health and economy of the northern Maine region.

It should be noted that L.D. 2034 appropriates \$20,146 for research by the University of Maine into the control of blackflies and it is primarily these funds to which Title 22, section 1472, subsection 2 to be enacted by this bill, refers.