

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 348

H. P. 291

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and 2,000 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

Cosponsor: Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, to Appropriate Moneys for Research on Black Fly Biology and Continued Research on an Environmentally Safe Insecticidal Control for Black Flies.

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

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

Whereas, black flies 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 livestock; and

Whereas, several towns of the Penobscot River watershed, whose citizens suffered severely from black flies during the past few years voted funds for black fly control, but could not use the money because there was no technology available for control of the black flies, and thereafter voted funds for the first year of research on insecticidal control of black flies; and

Whereas, entomologists at the Department of Entomology, University of Maine at Orono, are conducting research on black fly biology and control, partially funded extramurally, and cooperative work is being conducted by biologists of the Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, University of Maine; and

Whereas, progress on understanding the biology of local black fly species, and subsequent research on insecticidal control of black flies cannot be conducted without supplementary funds of \$29,240 during the fiscal year 1977-78; 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

Appropriation; black fly control. Resolved. That there is appropriated from the General Fund to University of Maine, Department of Entomology, the sum of \$29,240 for the fiscal year 1977-78 for the purpose of supporting research directed by members of the University of Maine staff on black fly biology and on environmentally safe insecticidal control of black flies and on locating streams where black flies would be susceptible to control.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

During summer of 1976 a new black fly species, now named *Simulium penobscoti*, was described and found to be a serious biting pest of humans. This species is almost indistinguishable as an adult from *S. nyssa*, the species previously thought to be the serious pest. Work done in September and October indicated that *S. penobscoti* was the only significant biting species and *S. nyssa* was not. Little is known about the biology and habitat preferences of this new species. Such information must be developed in order to know how and where treatments to control this insect should be made.

Funds for research on insecticidal control of black flies were pledged by town and county governments in the Penobscot River watershed. Pending approval by state agencies, preliminary experiments to determine efficacy and environmental hazards of insecticidal chemicals will be conducted during the summer of 1977. For registration, more comprehensive tests will be required in 1978, including work to determine effects of the insecticides on fish behavior and changes in fish diets due to the treatments.

To carry out the above research the sum of \$29,240 is necessary to assure full funding.