

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1112

H. P. 916

House of Representatives, March 17, 1977

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Truman of Biddeford (by request).

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Mosquito Control in York County.

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

Whereas, in the interests of public health and environmental protection, it is necessary to develop improved techniques for mosquito control which will prevent serious epidemics, without destroying the delicate ecological balance of the wetlands in which mosquitos breed; and

Whereas, to design a successful mosquito control program, it is first necessary to: 1. Conduct a survey to determine the types of mosquitos and the location of breeding areas; 2. Determine the most effective and environmental ly sound method of extermination for each mosquito type; and 3. Calculate the total cost of the proposed project; and

Whereas, the Department of Human Services and its agents must complete all necessary research and implement mosquito control measures by late spring; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$150,000 to be used for mosquito research and control measures in York County, as provided in Title 22, sec-

tions 1441-1443, starting in April, 1977. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$150,000

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the research and implementation of a mosquito control program in York County.

Mosquitos transmit encephalomyelitis to birds, horses and humans. They also transmit heartworm to dogs. Fatal cases of encephalomyelitis and heartworm have occurred in recent years, and are likely to occur, in areas of Maine and New England that are heavily populated with mosquitos.

Maine has experienced an extremely wet winter which, coupled with an average spring rainfall, will result in excessive amounts of standing ground water. In addition to these freshwater areas, many coastal wetlands exist in York County. Mosquitos breed in both coastal and freshwater wetland areas.

To effectively combat the mosquito population, completion of research and implementation of control measures must occur before the mosquito larvae hatch in late spring.