

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1704

H. P. 1492

House of Representatives, April 26, 1977

Filed by the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, Under Joint Rule 17, Pursuant to H. P. 253.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, Directing the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Lease Land and Buildings in West Boothbay Harbor to the Northeastern Research Foundation Inc.

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

Whereas, the federal facilities at McKown Point, West Boothbay Harbor will be declared surplus soon by the Federal Government, and will probably be transferred to the State shortly thereafter; and

Whereas, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences has been utilizing several of the federal buildings for several years, under contract with the Department of Marine Resources, and desires to continue this use; and

Whereas, the research being conducted by Bigelow Laboratory is of vital importance to the long-range understanding of the biological, chemical, physical and ecological processes occurring in the Gulf of Maine, and the understanding of these processes is vital to proper management of the marine resources in the Gulf; and

Whereas, the state's interest in the protection and management of its marine resources would be furthered by the continuation of research being conducted by Bigelow Laboratory; and

Whereas, a 2-year commitment of these facilities is necessary to allow the development of future plans for Bigelow Laboratory; 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

Commissioner of Marine Resources; directed to lease land; legislative oversight. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Marine Resources, in the name of the State of Maine, is directed to enter into a 2-year lease, commencing July 1, 1977, for nominal consideration, with the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, a division of Northeastern Research Foundation, of West Boothbay Harbor to lease all or part of a certain lot or parcel of land, and the buildings thereon, situated in West Boothbay Harbor in the County of Lincoln and State of Maine, being the parcel or lot presently owned by the United States, known as the Biological Laboratory, and described in the General Services Administration Real Property Survey, dated May 1, 1973, Inventory Control No. 134-30174-23, as Parcel A, not including the property leased to the State of Maine in March, 1969, for a 20-year term, and Parcel B, both parcels containing a total of 4.6 acres.

The lease agreement shall be prepared in consultation with the Committee on Marine Resources and shall be completed no later than June 15, 1977. At least 10 days prior to that date, the commissioner shall submit the lease agreement in its final form to the committee for its review.

If Bigelow Laboratory enters into the lease of land and buildings described herein, it shall submit to the Committee on Marine Resources periodic reports on its uses of the land and buildings, the research undertaken, the expenditures for maintenance and improvement, the plans for use of the facilities during the next reporting period, and the efforts undertaken to define their relationship to the State beyond the terms of this lease. This report shall be submitted on January 1, 1978, January 1, 1979 and June 30, 1979.

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 resolve is to direct the Commissioner of Marine Resources to lease property that the State will shortly acquire from the Federal Government. The property is located at McKown Point, West Boothbay Harbor and is currently occupied and used by Bigelow Laboratory. This resolve authorizes a lease to continue this occupation for 2 years; and thus to continue the marine research being conducted at Bigelow Laboratory. This marine research is vitally important to a better understanding of the Gulf of Maine and the state's marine resources.