

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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1082

H. P. 875

House of Representatives, March 7, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wood of Sanford.

Cosponsors: Mr. Dexter of Kingfield and Mr. Wyman of Pittsfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Promote Woodlot Cooperative Marketing.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 101, sub-c. I-B is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER I-B

WOODLOT COOPERATIVE MARKETING ACT

§ 421. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

1. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Conservation.

2. Woodlot cooperative marketing. "Woodlot cooperative marketing" means the marketing of woodlot products by groups of woodlot owners cooperating with each other to provide needed skills and materials for the sale of woodlot products of suitable quality in marketable quantities.

§ 422. Research and preparation of information

The commissioner shall research and prepare information designed to develop and promote woodlot cooperative marketing. The commissioner shall consult with the forestry and woodlot community, the faculty of the University of Maine, and with the various county extension agents in compiling information under this section. The information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Description and evaluation. A description and evaluation of the various methods of woodlot cooperative marketing;

2. Practical information. Prepare practical information concerning the establishment and operation of various methods of woodlot cooperative marketing, including promotion, advertisement, management and liability insurance;

3. Survey. A survey, by county, of the present demand for woodlot products to enable woodlot owners to plan future production in closer accord with marketing demands;

4. Feasibility study. A study of the feasibility of cooperative marketing of woodlot products to institutions, such as hospitals and schools; and

5. List of owners. A list of the names and addresses of all Maine woodlot owners and of the products which each produces.

§ 423. Distribution

The commissioner shall develop suitable means to distribute information compiled under section 422 to all Maine woodlot owners. If the commissioner considers the cost of distributing any research or instructional publication prohibitive, he shall, by whatever means appropriate, notify woodlot owners of the availability of the information. Distribution may be accomplished by means currently within the Department of Conservation.

§ 424. Assistance

The commissioner shall assist and advise individual woodlot owners or groups of woodlot owners in their efforts to market more effectively by:

1. Soliciting participation. Informing woodlot owners of, and soliciting their participation in, any proposed method of woodlot cooperative marketing;

2. Technical assistance. Providing technical assistance in such areas as lease and contract negotiation; and

3. Referral. Referring owners to other appropriate sources of assistance, such as the University of Maine, the county extension offices and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1979-80

CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Positions	(1)
Personal Services	\$15,000
All Other	5,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill enacts the Woodlot Cooperative Marketing Act which will encourage groups of woodlot owners to cooperate with each other to provide needed skills and materials for the sale of woodlot products of suitable quality in marketable quantity. The bill is a first step in enabling small woodlot owners to join together to sell products which they could not market separately.