

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. 1215

S. P. 397

In Senate, March 14, 1979

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

Presented by Senator Trafton of Androscoggin.

Cosponsors: Senators Huber of Cumberland, Clark of Cumberland and McBreairty of Aroostook.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Create a Ground Water Protection Commission to Review the Laws
Dealing with Ground Water.**

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

Sec. 1. Commission established. There is created a Ground Water Protection Commission, hereinafter known as the "commission."

Sec. 2. Administration. The Land and Water Resource Council shall provide staff support to the commission and administer its functions.

Sec. 3. Membership. The commission shall be composed of 15 members, as follows: One member from the Maine Geological Survey, one member from the Department of Human Services, one member from the Department of Environmental Protection, one member who is a municipal official, one member from a regional planning agency, one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 4 members representing industry and 4 members from the general public. One member representing industry shall be from a water company and one shall be a well driller. One member from the general public shall be admitted to the Maine Bar Association, and one shall be a member of a statewide environmental organization.

Sec. 4. Appointment. The members shall be appointed as follows: The member from the Maine Geological Survey shall be appointed by the State Geologist. The members from the Departments of Human Services and Environmental Protection shall be appointed by their respective commissioners. A well driller shall be appointed by the Maine Well Drillers Association and a member representing a water company shall be appointed by the Maine Water Utility Association. One municipal official, one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, one member representing industry and 2 members from the general public, including a member of an environmental organization, shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. One member from a regional planning agency, one member of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, one member representing industry and 2 members from the general public, including a member of the Maine Bar Association, shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The members shall be appointed in a timely manner and the commission shall hold an organizational meeting within 30 days after the adjournment of the Legislature at the call of the Chairman of the Legislative Council. At this meeting, the commission shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from within the membership.

Sec. 5. Duties. The commission shall:

1. Ground water contamination. Identify recent documented cases of significant ground water contamination, and where possible, determine the sources of the contamination;

2. Information gathering and analysis. Review the existing organization for the collection and analysis of ground water information and evaluate its adequacy;

3. Existing regulations. Review the existing federal, state and local regulations protecting ground water; and

4. Other studies and evaluation. Make any other studies and evaluations necessary to fully assess existing laws and information relating to ground water conservation and protection.

Sec. 6. Reports. The commission shall present its findings, together with any suggested legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 110th Legislature.

Sec. 7. Compensation of members. Members, except state employees, shall receive reimbursement for the necessary actual expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

Sec. 8. Assistance. All executive departments are directed to give prompt assistance to the commission.

Sec. 9. Acceptance of funds. The commission is authorized to accept funds from any agency of the United States, from any private foundation and from any other public or private source for the purposes of carrying out this Act.

Sec. 10. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1979-80

**GROUND WATER PROTECTION
COMMISSION**

All Other

\$5,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill creates a Ground Water Protection Commission to study the existing laws and activities affecting the quantity and quality of ground water supplies. The commission will report its findings to the 110th Legislature.