

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1571

H. P. 1317

House of Representatives, April 19, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hall of Sangerville.

Cosponsor: Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Strengthen the State's Capability to Assess Maine's Forest Resources.

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

12 MRSA c. 429 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 429

ASSESSMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

§ 5101. Maine's forests

The Legislature finds that the forests of Maine have been subject to increased demand for timber, increased pressure from competing land uses and significantly increased mortality losses in the last decade. In view of the critical importance of the forest resource to the State's economy, it is essential that the State have the capability to study changing forest resource trends. To obtain sufficient information about the present and future status of Maine's forests, extensive additional surveys, studies and analyses are necessary.

§ 5102. Assessment of forest resources

The Department of Conservation is hereby authorized and directed to conduct such studies, surveys and analyses as are necessary to provide State Government, the forest industry and Maine citizens with an adequate assessment of Maine's forest resources. These studies and surveys may include, but need not be limited to, surveys of wood utilization by primary and secondary wood processing industries, surveys of forest regeneration, analyses of volume tables and programs to enhance the usefulness and availability of available data.

§ 5103. Annual report

The Commissioner of Conservation shall provide an annual report no later than October 1, 1981 to the Legislature detailing the status of work performed pursuant to this chapter.

5104. Cooperation

The activities authorized hereunder shall be performed in cooperation with relevant federal, state and local agencies, as well as private and other nongovernmental groups concerned with Maine's forests. The work shall be fully coordinated with the ongoing departmental and federal forestry program planning efforts.

§ 5105. Authority

The Department of Conservation is hereby authorized to enter into agreements, to secure the services of contractors and consultants and accept and expend funds from other governmental agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In 1980-81, the United States Forest Service will conduct its 3rd evaluation of Maine's forest resources. The evaluation seeks aggregate data suitable for a national forest assessment. The United States Forest Service cannot undertake to supply detailed data for strictly local needs.

In view of recent and expected changes in Maine's forest land base and timber supply and demand, more detailed information is required. This will require additional state funds, amounting to roughly \$300,000 or \$30,000 per year over the useful life of the data. The work to be conducted with these funds will include additional survey plots, improved volume tables, a survey of secondary wood processing industries, up-to-date aerial photography, a survey of forest regeneration, preparation of local data, summaries and feasibility study of the use of satellite remote sensing data for forest surveys. Funds for this bill are included in the Governor's Part II budget.