

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 627

H. P. 551 House of Representatives, February 4, 1981
Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for
concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Mitchell of Vassalboro.

Cosponsors: Representative L. Davis of Monmouth, Senator Bustin of
Kennebec,

Senator Ault of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Create a Lake Restoration and Protection Financial Aid Program.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA § 390-A is enacted to read:

§ 390-A. Lake Restoration and Protection Financial Aid Program

1. **Fund purposes and administration.** There is established a nonlapsing Lake Restoration and Protection Fund, from which the Board of Environmental Protection is authorized to pay up to 25% from state appropriations of the eligible costs incurred in a lake restoration or protection project which has received federal approval and at least 50% federal funding. Eligible costs include all costs except those related to land acquisition, legal fees and debt service. All income received by the State from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for lake restoration or protection projects under United States code, Title 33, section 1324, shall be deposited with the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Lake Restoration and Protection fund. All moneys credited to that fund shall be used by the Board of Environmental Protection for projects to improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State, and for no other purpose.

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may, at the direction of the board, authorize the State Controller to draw his warrant for such funds as may be necessary to pay the lawful expenses of the lake restoration or protection project, up to the limits of the state and federal portions duly authorized. Any balance remaining in the fund shall continue without lapse from year to year and remain available for the purposes for which the fund is established and no other purpose.

2. Moneys. Moneys in the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund may not be used for projects in or on lakes for which public access is not provided.

Sec. 2. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect July 1, 1982.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Maine has the largest number of glaciated lakes east of the Mississippi River. The tourist attraction to Maine visitors is its array of excellent crystal-clean lakes with wonderful aesthetic settings. All lakeshore property owners in Maine pay a much higher real estate tax than other property owners on a relative scale basis. Maine, therefore, must continue its positive stand of land and pond water quality protection and restoration which has now been recognized on a worldwide basis. Maine has been a leader in New England and now is recognized as a national leader in the United States.

This bill establishes a Lake Restoration and Protection Fund that will enable the utilization of federal funds for this purpose while at the same time providing some state funds. The state share will be no more than 25%, the federal share at least 50% and the remainder, about 25%, from local sources.

Lakes that have benefited from this type of program are Annabessacook, Cobbossee, Pleasant, Sabasticook, Sabattus and Salmon. Some of the lakes that may benefit from this type of program are Lovejoy, Webber, Three Mill, Three Corner, Togus, Estes and the Summmerhavens.

The appropriation for this bill is contained in the Part II budget. \$100,000 is requested for fiscal year 1983.