

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1883

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-707)
110TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

6 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1911, L.D. 1883, Bill,
7 "AN ACT to Revise the Procedure for Municipalities Withdraw-
8 ing from the Maine Forestry District."

9 Amend the bill by inserting before the enacting the
10 clause the following:

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

14 Whereas, modern communications, transportation and
15 municipal organization have substantially changed the nature
16 of forest fire fighting and the capacity of governmental
17 units and private landowners to respond to forest fires; and

18 Whereas, investigation of modern developments and cur-
19 rent governmental organization is necessary to properly
20 evaluate the status of state fire fighting services; and

21 Whereas, it is necessary that this investigation begin
22 sooner than 90 days after the adjournment of the Legis-
23 lature; and

24 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
25 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Consti-
26 tution of Maine and require the following legislation as
27 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
28 peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

29 Further amend the bill in section 1 by adding at the
30 end the following:

31 '6. Withdrawal. The municipality shall be considered
32 withdrawn from the Maine Forestry District on April 1st of
33 the year following the effective date of legislation provid-
34 ing for the municipality's withdrawal.

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2 Further amend the bill by striking out everything after
3 section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

4 'Sec. 3. Maine Forest Fire Control Study Commission
5 established. There is created a Maine Forest Fire Control
6 Study Commission, known in this section as the "commission."

7 The commission shall be composed of 13 members as fol-
8 lows: Three members of the Legislature, one appointed by
9 the President of the Senate and 2 appointed by the Speaker
10 of the House; one member representing the Department of Con-
11 servation to be appointed by the commissioner; 3 municipal
12 officials appointed by the Maine Municipal Association, one
13 from a municipality within the Maine Forestry District, one
14 from a heavily forested municipality outside the district
15 and one from an urban area; one member appointed by the
16 Maine Forest Products Council; one member appointed by the
17 Paper Industry Information Office; one member appointed by
18 the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association; and 3 public members
19 without connection to the forest products industry, one of
20 whom resides in the unorganized territory, appointed by the
21 Governor. The members shall be appointed in a timely manner
22 and the commission shall hold an organizational meeting
23 within 30 days after the adjournment of the Legislature at
24 the call of the Chairman of the Legislative Council. At
25 this meeting the commission shall elect a chairman and a
26 vice-chairman from within the membership.

27 The commission shall: Review the organization, admin-
28 istration, funding and delivery of state forest fire control
29 services, including present local capabilities for forest
30 fire control, and review alternatives to forest fire preven-
31 tion and suppression, including technique used in other
32 states; identify the most modern, effective and cost effi-
33 cient method for providing forest fire control services
34 within the State utilizing and coordinating local resources;
35 and make any other studies and evaluations necessary to
36 fully assess existing laws and information relating to
37 forest fire control.

38 The commission shall report its findings, together with
39 any suggested legislation, to the 111th Legislature on or
40 before January 14, 1983.

41 The commission is authorized to contract for staff sup-

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2 port in conducting its functions.

3 Members, except state employees, shall receive reim-
4 bursement for the necessary actual expenses incurred in
5 carrying out the purposes of this commission.

6 All executive departments are directed to give prompt
7 assistance to the commission.

8 The commission is authorized to accept funds from any
9 agency of the United States.

10 Sec. 4. Appropriation. The following funds are appro-
11 priated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
12 this Act. These funds may be carried over to fiscal year
13 1982-83 until the commission's purposes are fulfilled.

14	<u>MAINE FOREST FIRE CONTROL STUDY</u>	<u>1981-82</u>
15	<u>COMMISSION</u>	

16	All Other	\$5,000
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17 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in
18 the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

19 STATEMENT OF FACT

20 This amendment removes provisions changing reimburse-
21 ment to municipalities within the Maine Forestry District
22 and liability for forest fire fighting costs for municipali-
23 ties outside the district. It provides for the establish-
24 ment of a commission to study state forest fire control ser-
25 vices to assure efficiency in organization, administration
26 and delivery and adds an emergency preamble so the commis-
27 sion can begin its investigation sooner than 90 days after
28 adjournment of the Legislature.

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Reported by the Committee on Taxation.
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of
the House.

3/30/82

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