

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2126

S.P. 790

In Senate, February 24, 1984

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

Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Pearson of Penobscot.

Cosponsors: Representative Cooper of Windham, Representative Mayo of Thomaston and Representative Mitchell of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Encourage the Use of Wood as a
Source of Energy in State-owned Buildings.**

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

Whereas, the State is actively pursuing the possibility of converting state facilities to biomass by seeking engineering and financial assistance and services;

Whereas, a biomass boiler could be in operation by the next heating season;

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-

1 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
2 therefore,

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

5 5 MRSA §1766 is enacted to read:

6 §1766. Use of wood in heating public facilities

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
8 Bureau of Public Improvements may enter into agree-
9 ments with private parties under which the private
10 party will, for consideration, lease land, buildings
11 or an existing heating facility and a right of access
12 thereto, provided that the facility generates most of
13 its energy from biomass and further provided that ex-
14 cess energy may be cogenerated for sale to public
15 utilities. The provisions of section 1587 shall not
16 apply to lease-purchase and other similar agreements
17 for the acquisition of these heating facilities.

18 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
19 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
20 proved.

21 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 The Bureau of Public Improvements has determined
23 that a number of heating facilities in state-owned
24 buildings could be converted to the use of wood as a
25 heating source. Wood is a renewable resource and is
26 indigenous to the State. Those conversions have the
27 potential of saving the State money, reducing depen-
28 dence on foreign oil and providing new markets for
29 some state wood that is not now being used.

30 This bill allows the Bureau of Public Improve-
31 ments to enter into agreements with the private
32 sector whereby a state-owned heating facility and ac-

1 cess to it would be leased so that wood heat could be
2 supplied and excess energy cogenerated and sold to
3 public utilities.

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