

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 125

8 H.P. 100

House of Representatives, January 22, 1985

9 Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
10 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
suggested and ordered printed.

11 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Coles of Harpswell.

12 Cosponsored by Senator Kany of Kennebec, Senator Black of
Cumberland and Representative Jacques of Waterville.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT to Establish a Maine Rivers Grants
19 Program.
20

21 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
22 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
23 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

24 Whereas, the Legislature has recognized the cur-
25 rent importance of protecting and providing access to
26 the state's outstanding rivers; and

27 Whereas, a Maine Rivers Protection Fund could
28 substantially enhance this protection of and public
29 access to the state's outstanding rivers; and

30 Whereas, such a fund would rely on donations and
31 the sale of a Maine rivers protection decal or em-
32 blem; and

1 Whereas, tremendous potential exists for develop-
2 ment of the fund during the spring and summer of 1985
3 and the subsequent provision of protection and public
4 access to Maine's outstanding rivers; and

5 Whereas, this opportunity will be lost if the
6 fund cannot be initiated during the spring or summer
7 of 1985; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
9 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
10 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
11 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
12 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

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

16 12 MRSA §5015 is enacted to read:

17 §5015. Maine Rivers Protection Fund

18 There is established within the Department of
19 Conservation a Rivers Protection Fund, which shall be
20 funded by donations, bequests, grants, gifts and pro-
21 ceeds from the sale of Maine rivers protection promo-
22 tion items and shall be nonlapsing.

23 Pursuant to the authority established in section
24 5012, the commissioner may administer a state
25 grant-in-aid-program and may promulgate rules there-
26 for under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II. The
27 purpose of the program is to assist local governments
28 and river conservation or management groups in activ-
29 ities, including acquisition, furthering state poli-
30 cies for the protection of and public access to the
31 state's outstanding rivers.

32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
33 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
34 proved.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Act to promote the wise use and management of
3 Maine's outstanding rivers, the 1983 Maine Rivers
4 Act, established a policy of recognition and protec-
5 tion of the state's outstanding rivers or river seg-
6 ments. The Department of Conservation, Bureau of
7 Parks and Recreation, has identified activities
8 which, if undertaken, will enhance the public enjoy-
9 ment of these rivers.

10 This bill authorizes the department to collect
11 money from the sale of a decal or emblem and to ac-
12 cept other donations for the purpose of making grants
13 to local governmental or other agencies concerned
14 with the protection of the values of these rivers for
15 specific activities which enhance public enjoyment of
16 this resource.

17 This bill creates a fund which will be capital-
18 ized by donations and proceeds from the sale of a
19 Maine rivers identifying decal or emblem. Expendi-
20 tures will not exceed the amount in the fund.

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