

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 475

7 H.P. 354

House of Representatives, February 8, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and ordered  
9 printed. Sent up for concurrence. Ordered sent forthwith.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Bell of Paris.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Rolde of York, Representative Whitcomb  
of Waldo and Representative Allen of Washington.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Provide More Direct Field Service  
18 Through the Division of Forest Management  
19 in the Department of Conservation.  
20

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

23 Sec. 1. Purpose and findings. The Legislature  
24 finds that private nonindustrial forest landowners  
25 own 49% of the timberland in the State which supplies  
26 a significant volume of forest products to Maine's  
27 forest industry. The Legislature has statutorily  
28 mandated that foresters employed by the State shall  
29 provide technical guidance and service to small wood-  
30 land owners, municipalities and wood processors in  
31 order to bring about improvement in the growing, har-  
32 vesting, marketing and utilization of forest  
33 products. The Legislature reemphasized its intention  
34 that the Bureau of Forestry should allocate its re-  
35 sources to maximize the provision of direct  
36 in-the-field service and minimize the resources de-  
37 voted to administration of the bureau and its pro-  
38 grams in Public Law 1983, c. 819.

1           Since 1981, the Legislature finds that the bureau  
2 has gradually increased the staff responsible for  
3 performing administrative functions and decreased the  
4 staff providing direct field service.

5           **Sec. 2. Report required.** The Commissioner of  
6 Conservation shall prepare a proposal to reallocate  
7 existing forest management and utilization resources  
8 within the Bureau of Forestry to strengthen direct  
9 in-the-field services to forest landowners and diminish  
10 administrative functions in order to encourage  
11 the development, management and protection of private  
12 nonindustrial forest lands.

13           The purpose of the reallocation of existing re-  
14 sources shall be to encourage landowners to apply  
15 practices that will provide for forestation of suit-  
16 able open lands, reforestation of cut over or other  
17 nonstocked or understocked forest lands, timber stand  
18 improvement practices, including thinning, prescribed  
19 burning and other silvicultural treatments, and forest  
20 resources management and production.

21           The proposal shall be submitted to the joint  
22 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdic-  
23 tion over energy and natural resources during the  
24 first week of the Second Regular Session of the 112th  
25 Legislature.

26           1. Existing resources to be considered in the  
27 reallocation proposal. The report shall specifically  
28 consider reallocating existing resources within the  
29 Division of Forest Management, including its compo-  
30 nent programs of utilization and marketing, urban and  
31 community forestry and assessment and utilization, as  
32 well as the bureau's administration, especially its  
33 planning, evaluation and research functions. All  
34 personnel funded in these areas and all related fed-  
35 eral accounts shall be considered in this realloca-  
36 tion plan.

37           2. Areas to be included. The proposal shall in-  
38 clude, but not be limited to, strengthening the bu-  
39 reau's provision of direct services in the following  
40 areas:

41           A. Timber stand improvement;

- 1 B. Hardwood silviculture;
- 2 C. Softwood silviculture;
- 3 D. Urban and community forestry;
- 4 E. Marketing;
- 5 F. Taxation;
- 6 G. Harvesting systems;
- 7 H. Wood energy;
- 8 I. Christmas trees;
- 9 J. Primary processing;
- 10 K. Wildlife management;
- 11 L. Pesticides;
- 12 M. Maple sugar and syrup; and
- 13 N. Road construction and soils.

14 STATEMENT OF FACT

15 Contrary to the legislative mandate and intent,  
16 the Legislature finds that the Bureau of Forestry has  
17 proceeded to eliminate direct in-the-field services  
18 to private nonindustrial forest landowners while in-  
19 creasing the number of forestry administrators and  
20 planning personnel within the Augusta headquarters  
21 and regional offices.

22 This bill requires the bureau to reallocate ex-  
23 isting resources to increase direct field service to  
24 private nonindustrial forest landowners and decrease  
25 the number of personnel devoted to administrative  
26 functions within the bureau.

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