

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1005

6
7 S.P. 371

In Senate, March 13, 1985

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

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Brown of Washington.

11 Cosponsored by Senator McBreairty of Aroostook and Representative
Bell of Paris.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Strengthen the Provision of
18 Technical Forestry Assistance to
19 Forest Landowners.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8601, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
24 545, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its
25 place:

26 §8601. Advice; recommendations

27 The Director of the Bureau of Forestry shall es-
28 tablish a program to advise municipalities and small
29 woodland owners concerning forest, shade and ornamen-
30 tal tree management and recommend programs for tree
31 and stand improvement.

32 1. Preliminary assessment project. As part of
33 this program, the director shall publicize, conduct
34 and assess a 2-year project to encourage earlier and

1 closer cooperation between interested forest landown-
2 ers and professional foresters.

3 A. The director shall define, by regulation, a
4 package of initial consulting services which, at
5 a minimum, shall include an initial visit and
6 preliminary assessment of a forest parcel by a
7 private, consulting professional forester li-
8 censed by the State Board of Registration for
9 Professional Foresters.

10 B. The director shall establish a fee for the
11 initial consulting services package that covers
12 the direct costs of the services. This fee may
13 not exceed \$75.

14 C. The director shall establish a list of all
15 licensed professional foresters in good standing
16 in the State who shall be eligible for referrals
17 under this project. The director shall further
18 establish an equitable referral mechanism.

19 D. Upon receiving evidence of satisfactory com-
20 pletion of the initial consultation, the director
21 shall reimburse the professional forester provid-
22 ing the consultation in the amount determined un-
23 der paragraph C. The director may, by regula-
24 tion, determine what constitutes evidence of sat-
25 isfactory completion.

26 E. No referrals may be made under this project
27 to landowners holding less than 10 acres or more
28 than 1,000 acres of commercial forest land.

29 F. No landowner may receive more than one con-
30 sultation visit service under this project during
31 any 5-year period.

32 The director shall report on this project to the
33 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
34 jurisdiction over natural resources no later than
35 January 1, 1988.

36 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are
37 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
38 purposes of this Act.

1		<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
2	<u>CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
3	Bureau of Forestry	\$10,000	\$10,000
4	For the preliminary as-		
5	essment project to pro-		
6	vide forestry services to		
7	small forest landowners.		

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 State service forestry is currently weak and
 10 lacking firm direction. The Legislature in recent
 11 years has not indicated its support for traditional
 12 service forestry approaches. In addition, the De-
 13 partment of Conservation has assumed an active role
 14 in promoting the use of whole tree harvesting opera-
 15 tions, also known as biomass harvesting. Increasing
 16 demand for wood fiber by the paper industry and a
 17 growing number of wood-to-energy facilities further
 18 encourages biomass harvesting. Many small forest
 19 landowners are considering the biomass approach and
 20 would benefit from the advice of a professional for-
 21 ester.

22 The purpose of this bill is to give limited state
 23 support for introductory services to small forest
 24 landowners when they are provided directly by private
 25 foresters. This will be a more cost-effective way
 26 of:

- 27 1. Providing services to small forest landown-
 28 ers;
- 29 2. Introducing landowners to private foresters;
 30 and
- 31 3. Increasing the professional forestry supervi-
 32 sion of harvest operations.

33 A secondary purpose is to encourage the develop-
 34 ment of an active consulting forestry sector and to
 35 limit state competition with this sector.

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