

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1111
6

7 S.P. 401

In Senate, March 26, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested
9 and ordered printed.

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

Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Michaud of Medway, Representative
Hoglund of Portland 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 **Resolve, Concerning a Study of the**
18 **Impact of Residential Heating by Wood Stoves**
19 **on Ambient Air Quality.**
20

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

23 **Legislative findings and intent. Resolved: That**
24 **the Legislature finds that there has been a dramatic**
25 **increase in the residential use of wood for home**
26 **space heating.**

27 The Legislature further finds that emissions from
28 residential burning of wood may have a serious and
29 adverse effect on the State's air quality and the
30 health of Maine citizens.

31 It is the intent of the Legislature to study the
32 potential impact of residential heating by wood on
33 the State's air quality and public health, in order
34 to determine the appropriate measures necessary to
35 safeguard the State's air and public health; and be
36 it further

1 **Study. Resolved:** That the Department of Envi-
2 ronmental Protection shall, in conjunction with the
3 Bureau of Public Health, evaluate the extent and mag-
4 nitude of the impact of residential heating by wood
5 stoves on ambient air quality and public health in
6 the State. The study shall use existing data regard-
7 ing the extent and level of wood stove emissions, in-
8 cluding information on types of wood burned and
9 stoves utilized, the effect of topography on air
10 quality and the chemical and particulate composition
11 of the emissions. Existing data shall also be used
12 to evaluate the potential health impacts of the
13 State's residential heating by wood.

14 The department shall report its findings and rec-
15 ommendations for appropriate future action to the
16 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
17 jurisdiction over natural resources by June 1, 1986;
18 and be it further

19 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following
20 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry
21 out the purposes of this resolve.

22		<u>1985-86</u>
23	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,</u>	
24	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
25	All Other	\$10,000

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 There has been a recent and dramatic increase in
3 the use of wood for home heating in Maine. Presently,
4 over 46% of Maine homes burn some wood. Incomplete
5 combustion of wood in residential stoves produces
6 carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons, including
7 carcinogens such as benzopyrene. In fact, the Department
8 of Environmental Protection's recent inventory found
9 annual emissions of over 7 tons of benzopyrene. Wood
10 stove emissions could cause problems for up to 270,000
11 of Maine's most susceptible citizens -- 70,000 people
12 with chronic obstructive lung disease, 140,000 senior
13 citizens, 34,000 children aged 2 or under and 29,000
14 stroke and heart attack victims.
15

16 This resolve authorizes and funds the Department
17 of Environmental Protection to evaluate, with the assistance
18 of the Bureau of Health, the impact of residential heating
19 by wood on Maine's public health and air quality, by use
20 of existing data, and to report its findings and
21 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
22 Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and natural
23 resources.

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