

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1414

6
7 H.P. 984

House of Representatives, April 29, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Law of Dover-Foxcroft.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Assure the Future of Maine's Forest
18 Resources.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §5101, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
23 414, is repealed and the following enacted in its
24 place:

25 §5101. Maine's forests

26 The Legislature finds that Maine's economy and
27 the well being of its citizens is founded on the
28 State's natural resources, especially its forests.
29 The forest resource, under proper management, pro-
30 vides a continuous stream of benefits enjoyed by the
31 people of the State, including a supply of wood
32 products and fiber for industrial manufacturing, fuel
33 for domestic and commercial applications, habitat for
34 numerous species of game and nongame wildlife, recre-
35 ational opportunities for residents and out-of-state

1 tourists and supplies of high quality water for human
2 use and fisheries habitat.

3 The Legislature further finds that the forests of
4 the State are subject to increased demand for all of
5 its products and that it has also been subject to
6 significantly increased natural mortality losses in
7 the past decade.

8 The Legislature also finds that the vast majority
9 of the forest resource in the State is under private
10 ownership and that the State's role should be to
11 serve as a catalyst to encourage and promote the sus-
12 tained yield management and use of the forest and its
13 related resources. This role is best realized if
14 state actions in the forestry sector manifest a con-
15 sistent and comprehensive perspective of how the for-
16 est resource can best serve the long-term needs of
17 the people of the State.

18 The Legislature further finds that the long-term
19 needs of the State and its citizens may be threatened
20 by uncoordinated and short-sighted decisions in the
21 public and private sectors, including economic devel-
22 opment, environmental protection, tax policy and oth-
23 er related items.

24 In view of these findings, it is essential that
25 the State have the capability to study changing
26 trends in supply and demand for forest resources in
27 the State. The State must also establish clear goals
28 for the management of the forest resource and a sta-
29 ble, comprehensive framework and implementation
30 schedule for state actions.

31 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §§5101-A and 5101-B are enacted
32 to read:

33 §5101-A. Maine Forests for the Future Program

34 There is established in the Department of Conser-
35 vation a Maine Forests for the Future Program. The
36 purpose of this program shall be to:

37 1. Assess current resources. Assess the current
38 status of forest resources, including, but not lim-
39 ited to, timber, fiber, recreation, water, wildlife
40 and soil;

1 2. Project future demand. Project future demand
2 for these resources based on a common economic fore-
3 cast developed by the State Planning Office;

4 3. Identify trends in resource utilization.
5 Identify trends in resource utilization and forecast
6 supplies available to meet the projected demand;

7 4. Identify shortfalls. Identify potential
8 shortfalls in forest resources and the management ac-
9 tions necessary in the public and private sector to
10 avoid shortfalls;

11 5. Designate resource management areas. Desig-
12 nate or recognize resource management areas which
13 shall be defined in geographical, ecological, social
14 or economic terms as appropriate and for which shall
15 be established meaningful and attainable management
16 goals; and

17 6. Recommend policy. Recommend to the Governor
18 and the Legislature the administrative and legisla-
19 tive policies or actions needed to refine or redirect
20 state agency programs and to stimulate or remove
21 obstacles to private sector action in a manner that
22 contributes to an adequate supply of natural re-
23 sources.

24 The Commissioner of Conservation shall establish
25 a working group composed of members of the existing
26 staff of the department and other persons
27 knowledgeable in forestry and related fields to carry
28 out the purposes of this chapter. The working group
29 shall have expertise in forest management, forest
30 utilization, recreation management, land use regula-
31 tion and other areas as appropriate.

32 §5101-B. Review and coordination

33 The Land and Water Resources Council, coordinated
34 by the State Planning Office shall review and approve
35 any reports issued by the Maine Forests for the Fu-
36 ture Program under section 5103 and shall collective-
37 ly adopt policies for its member agencies subject to
38 Title 5, chapter 375, that address the needs identi-
39 fied by the program. The commissioner may request the
40 assistance of the council or any of its members in

1 the conduct of studies, analyses, surveys or other
2 activities necessary to carry out the purposes of
3 this chapter.

4 The commissioner shall coordinate the efforts of
5 this program fully with ongoing departmental and fed-
6 eral forestry program planning efforts.

7 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §5103, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
8 414, is repealed and the following enacted in its
9 place:

10 §5103. Reports

11 The commissioner shall prepare a series of re-
12 ports which provide:

13 1. Assessment. An assessment of current and pro-
14 jected supply and demand for forest and related re-
15 sources in the State:

16 A. Based on these projections, the assessment
17 shall include goals for the supply of forest re-
18 sources including, but not limited to, timber,
19 fiber, recreation, water, wildlife and soil from
20 each of the resource management areas; and

21 B. The assessment shall be prepared on a 5-year
22 cycle with the first report due no later than
23 January 1, 1987;

24 2. Recommendations. Recommendations for state
25 and private actions designed to address the needs
26 identified in the assessment:

27 A. State action recommendations shall be defined
28 in terms of necessary policies, programs, staff
29 and budgetary requirements;

30 B. Recommendations for actions on privately held
31 forest land shall be developed separately for
32 large, industrial ownerships and small, nonindus-
33 trial ownerships. These recommendations shall be
34 defined in terms of actions needed to achieve
35 specific end results; and

1 forest resource questions whether they involve man-
2 agement of state lands or the promotion of better
3 management on private lands. The program is also in-
4 tended to encourage the consideration of a full range
5 of forest resource values in making state forest pol-
6 icy. These values include timber, production, recre-
7 ation, wildlife, water supply and others as appropri-
8 ate.

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