

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2198

6
7 H.P. 1559 House of Representatives, March 17, 1986
8 Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Jacques of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Representative Law of Dover-Foxcroft and Senator Kany
of Kennebec.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Improve the Management of Maine's
18 Forest Recreation Resource.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §9341, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
23 545, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its
24 place:

25 §9341. Establishment

26 The Commissioner of Conservation may construct
27 and maintain public campsites to prevent forest
28 fires, by providing for fire-safe sites and by pre-
29 venting a proliferation of private fires, and to pro-
30 vide recreational opportunities on public lands and
31 elsewhere in the State's forests where there is inad-
32 equately provision of private, primitive campsites.

33 For the purpose of carrying out this program, the
34 commissioner may accept voluntary services and other

1 contributions, pursuant to section 5012, enter into
2 leases and other agreements and, pursuant to Title 5,
3 chapter 375, subchapter II, establish rules and a
4 schedule of fees for the use of these campsites. All
5 such fees and other revenues derived from grants,
6 contributions, contracts and transfers to carry out
7 the purposes of this section shall be deposited in a
8 nonlapsing account to be called the Forest Recreation
9 Resource Fund to be used for the purposes of this
10 section. All funds in this account shall be subject
11 to allocation by the Legislature.

12 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §9342, as enacted by PL 1979, c.
13 545, §3, is amended to read:

14 §9342. Seasonal use only

15 No person ~~shall~~ may place any trailer, camper,
16 shelter or tent from May 1st to November 30th at any
17 public campsite maintained or authorized by the
18 ~~bureau~~ pursuant to section 9341 and keep ~~such~~ that
19 trailer, camper, shelter or tent so located, vacant
20 or occupied for more than 14 days in any 30-day peri-
21 od. Persons already having placed a trailer, camper,
22 shelter or tent at such a campsite for more than 14
23 days shall remove any such item and leave at the re-
24 quest of the ~~director~~ commissioner, his designee or
25 ~~of~~ any fish and wildlife warden.

26 Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are al-
27 located from the Forest Recreation Resource Fund to
28 carry out the purposes of this Act.

29 1986-87

30 CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF

31	Forest Recreation Resource Program	
32	Personal Services	\$7,500
33	All Other	<u>7,500</u>
34	Total	\$15,000

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2

3

4

5

6

7

Maine is renowned for its forest recreation opportunities, most of which exist on privately-owned lands. These opportunities are the basis of much of the State's appeal for out-of-state tourists, as well as for people who live here and enjoy our recreational opportunities year-round.

8

9

10

11

In the last 2 decades there has been a considerable increase in the use of the State's woods for recreation, specifically camping, canoeing, hiking, hunting and fishing.

12

13

14

15

16

17

The provision of forest campsites is no longer solely a matter of fire control. The campsite system is now also a means of providing management of the State's forest recreation resource and this change needs to be recognized in the law to provide for more efficient and effective management of the resource.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

This bill authorizes the Department of Conservation to maintain forest campsites for both fire control and recreational purposes, to coordinate leasing with private landowners, to develop new sites where needed and to institute a system through which campsite users would pay reasonable fees for overnight use. The user fees would be used to help defray the costs of the program.

26

5487030686