

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 830

H.P. 612 House of Representatives, March 18, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative MCGOWAN of Canaan.

Cosponsored by Representatives JACQUES of Waterville and  
MICHAUD of East Millinocket.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Improve the Assessment of Floods,  
2 Droughts, Ground Water Contamination,  
3 Stream Water Quality and Hydropower  
4 Potential in this State.  
5

6 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
7 follows:

8 Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-  
9 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes  
10 of this Act.

11 1987-88 1988-89

12 CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF

13 Maine Geological Survey

1	All Other	\$42,000	\$42,000
2	Provides funds for an		
3	expansion of the exist-		
4	ing cooperative agree-		
5	ment between the Maine		
6	Geological Survey and		
7	the United States Geo-		
8	logical Survey to im-		
9	prove the Maine water		
10	flow management data		
11	system which includes		
12	stream gauges, snowpack		
13	assessments and data		
14	collection.		

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 This bill allows improvements in the State's riv-  
17 er, stream and ground water flow management network,  
18 as recommended by the State's Land and Water Re-  
19 sources Council's River Flow Management and Ground  
20 Water Standing Committees. River gauges on 9 rivers  
21 would be rehabilitated. New gauging sites will be  
22 established in the head waters of 5 river and lake  
23 drainage basins. Satellite data transmitters will be  
24 installed on 9 existing stream gauges. A yearly snow  
25 survey for flood prediction will be reinstated.  
26 The State's ground water level network would be ex-  
27 panded from its present 25 wells to 40 wells.

28 Those improvements in the State's gauging system  
29 will be used to provide stream flow information, via  
30 satellite, to emergency response agencies during  
31 times of floods and extreme droughts. The informa-  
32 tion will also be used by the Department of Environ-  
33 mental Protection, as well as paper companies and  
34 other dischargers, for monitoring stream quality dur-  
35 ing critical periods. Additional users of this data  
36 include: The National Weather Service Flood Forecast  
37 Center, engineering firms and the Maine Department of  
38 Transportation for bridge and culvert design and rec-  
39 creational users who schedule river trips in remote  
40 areas using up-to-date flow data. The United States  
41 Geological Survey will include this data in published

1 reports on water resource conditions in this State.

2 This State's existing stream gauging and ground  
3 water level program has been level funded since 1980.  
4 Upgrading the State's gauging network will cost an  
5 estimated \$420,000. One half of this cost will be  
6 provided by the Water Resources Division of the  
7 United States Geological Survey. The program will be  
8 completed over a 5-year period. During this time,  
9 the cost to the State will be \$42,000 a year.

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