

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1227

H.P. 915 House of Representatives, April 10, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative ARMSTRONG of Wilton.

Cosponsored by Representatives JACQUES of Waterville,
STROUT of Windham, and Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Create a Statewide Reservation
2 System for State Parks that have
3 Overnight Camping Facilities.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §602, sub-§19 is enacted to
8 read:

9 19. State Park Reservation System. A State Park
10 Reservation System shall be established and funded as
11 provided in this subsection.

12 A. The director shall establish a statewide res-
13 ervation system for overnight camping at state
14 parks with overnight camping facilities incorpo-
15 rating a deposit system and a mechanism for ac-

1 cepting payments by credit card. Baxter State
2 Park, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the
3 Public Reserved Lands System are excluded from
4 this system.

5 B. The money for this program shall be appropri-
6 ated from the General Fund. A surcharge shall be
7 collected on all reservations to be deposited in
8 the General Fund.

9 C. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation shall sub-
10 mit a report detailing the effectiveness of the
11 reservation system to the joint standing commit-
12 tee having jurisdiction over energy and natural
13 resources in the Second Regular Session of the
14 114th Legislature. The committee shall report
15 its findings no later than March 1, 1990.

16 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are
17 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
18 purposes of this Act.

19		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
20	<u>CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT</u>		
21	<u>OF</u>		
22	Bureau of Parks and		
23	Recreation		
24	Positions	(1)	(1)
25	Personal Services	\$13,000	\$13,600
26	All Other	14,600	15,000
27	Capital Expenditures	8,500	
28			
29	Total	<u>\$36,100</u>	<u>\$28,600</u>

1 These funds are
2 for a full-time
3 employee for 8
4 months; 2 WATS
5 lines, both
6 in-state and out-
7 of-state; and
8 equipment to im-
9 plement the reser-
10 vation system.

11 Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act shall take ef-
12 fect on January 1, 1988.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This bill purposes to establish a statewide res-
15 ervation system for state parks with overnight camp-
16 ing facilities. Currently, space is given at most
17 parks on a first-come, first-served basis and campers
18 may travel long distances only to discover a favored
19 campground is full.

20 Section 1 empowers the director to establish the
21 system and describes some of its attributes. To de-
22 fray the costs of this program, a nightly surcharge
23 will be assessed all campground reservations made
24 through the system. The committee with jurisdiction
25 over natural resources will review the program after
26 2 years of operation.

27 Section 2 appropriates General Fund money to this
28 program for initial start-up costs. Currently,
29 Maine's campsites are used for over 95,000 site
30 nights per year. Conservative estimates are that at
31 least 1/3 of the campsites will be reserved through
32 this system.

33 Section 3 provides for enactment of the bill in
34 January, 1988.

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