

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
(After Deadline)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1289

H.P. 960 House of Representatives, April 15, 1987
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.
Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Provide for Bilingual Forest**
2 **Rangers in Northwestern Maine to Enhance and**
3 **Ensure Adequate Response in Catastrophic or**
4 **Emergency Situations.**
5

6 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
7 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
8 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

9 Whereas, the need for bilingual forest rangers
10 has become increasingly obvious and immediate; and

11 Whereas, that need requires immediate response by
12 the State; and

1 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
2 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
3 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
4 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
5 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
6 therefore,

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

9 **Sec. 1.** 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§1, as amended by PL
10 1985, c. 785, Pt. B, §76, is further amended to
11 read:

12 1. Appointment. The Director of the Bureau of
13 Forestry shall appoint forest rangers and a state su-
14 pervisor, subject to the Civil Service Law. Rangers
15 assigned to posts at Clayton Lake, St. Pamphile,
16 Estcourt Station, Daaquam, Musquacook Lake, Snare
17 Brook and Baker Lake, shall be bilingual in French
18 and English.

19 **Sec. 2. Application.** The provisions of this
20 Act, shall apply to all assignments made after the
21 effective date of this Act.

22 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
23 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
24 proved.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to require the ap-
3 pointment of forest rangers serving the northeast
4 part of the State. This area contains primarily
5 French-speaking residents. The majority of woods
6 workers there are also French speaking. These
7 French-speaking persons would be the primary source
8 of manpower in forest fires or other emergencies. In
9 addition, there is extensive contact and interaction
10 with Quebec and its French-speaking rangers and re-
11 source management and law enforcement personnel. The
12 ability of this State's rangers to effectively and
13 efficiently interact with those French-speaking indi-
14 viduals is vital to the proper performance of their
15 functions.

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