

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1438

S.P. 475

In Senate, May 6, 1987

Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to
Joint Rule 24.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator USHER of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative ANDERSON of Woodland,
Senator TUTTLE of York, Representative DEXTER of Kingfield.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**AN ACT to Improve Public Lands' Camp Lot
Management.**

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2
3

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

6 **Sec. 1. 30 MRSA §4162, sub-§9, as enacted by PL**
7 **1981, c. 396, §1, is repealed and the following en-**
8 **acted in its place:**

9 9. Lease rates. The annual fee for camp leases
10 under subsection 4 shall not exceed 10% of the fair
11 market value of the land, as determined once during
12 each 5-year lease term by the State Tax Assessor.
13 Notwithstanding this subsection, there shall be a
14 minimum annual camp lease fee of \$150.

15 **Sec. 2. 30 MRSA §4163, 3rd¶, as repealed and re-**
16 **placed by PL 1985, c. 299, §4, is repealed.**

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Several provisions of the Bureau of Public Lands'
3 camp lot leasing laws should be changed to make the
4 program more efficient. First, the State Tax Asses-
5 sor is required to reassess camp lot leases every 2
6 years and the bureau must establish its lease fees
7 based on the assessments. The bureau's leases run
8 for 5 years. Property values in unorganized town-
9 ships generally do not increase dramatically from
10 year-to-year and one reassessment in 5 years would
11 adequately reflect camp lot values. This would cre-
12 ate a consistent rental fee for the term of the
13 lease.

14 Second, some camp lots are valued so low that the
15 rental fee is only \$50 for each year. These low
16 rental fees are not adequate compensation for exclu-
17 sive private use of public lands and do not even cov-
18 er the administrative costs associated with these
19 leases. The bureau proposes to establish a minimum
20 rental fee of \$150 for each year, regardless of state
21 evaluation.

22 Third, the bureau is required to spend 50% of its
23 camp lot lease program profits to develop campsites
24 and other public use facilities. The bureau expends
25 far more than that for these purposes today and the
26 budget goes before the Legislature for review. This
27 50% requirement results in unnecessary bookkeeping.
28 This bill eliminates this requirement.

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