

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

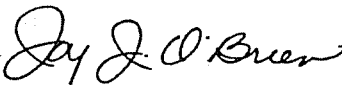
Legislative Document

No. 90

S.P. 88

In Senate, February 7, 1989

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


JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HOLLOWAY of Lincoln.

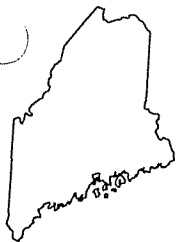
Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport, Representative COLES of Harpswell and Senator CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to Investigate Zero Discharge Systems.

(EMERGENCY)



1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
3 as emergencies; and

5 Whereas, the Legislature adopted Public Law 1987, chapter
6 180, to restrict the use of overboard effluent discharges into
7 the waters of the State; and

9 Whereas, it is imperative to use the most cost and
10 environmentally effective methods of waste water disposal; and

11 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
12 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
13 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
15 safety; now, therefore,

16
17 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

18
19 **38 MRSA §464, sub-§4, ¶H** is enacted to read:

20
21 H. The Department of Human Services shall report to the
22 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
23 jurisdiction over energy and natural resources by April 1st
24 and quarterly thereafter on the status of the department's
25 investigation into and research on technologically proven
26 methods of waste water disposal consistent with the Maine
27 State Plumbing Code as alternatives to overboard discharge
28 systems. This report shall include an analysis of the cost
29 of installation and operation as well as the environmental
30 impacts of these methods of disposal.

31
32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
33 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.
34

35 36 37 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

38
39 In 1987, the Legislature adopted Public Law 1987, chapter
40 180, which restricted the use of overboard effluent discharges
41 into the waters of the State. This law prohibited the Board of
42 Environmental Protection from approving new licenses, the
43 transfer of existing licenses and the renewal of existing
44 licenses for overboard discharges unless, among other things, the
45 applicant fully investigated and implemented all technologically
46 proven alternative methods of waste water disposal consistent
47 with the Maine State Plumbing Code which will not result in an
48 overboard discharge.
49

50 This bill requires that the Department of Human Services,
51 the agency responsible for administering the Maine State Plumbing
52 Code, report annually to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy
53 and Natural Resources on the cost and environmental effectiveness
54 of alternative methods of waste water disposal.
55