

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 840

H.P. 617

House of Representatives, March 21, 1989

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

*Ed Pert*

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RAND of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Berwick, Representative PARADIS of Frenchville and Representative DEXTER of Kingfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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An Act to Protect Naturally Occurring Landmarks.

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

3 12 MRSA c. 432 is enacted to read:

5 CHAPTER 432

7 NATURAL LANDMARKS

9 §5301. Designation and protection of natural landmarks

11 1. Designation. The commissioner may designate natural  
13 landmarks which are of state significance or interest for their  
unique or remarkable scientific, scenic, geological, natural  
15 resource, historic or other similar value.

17 2. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules governing the  
designation of natural landmarks. The rules must include:

19 A. Criteria necessary for designation as a natural  
21 landmark; and

23 B. Procedure for members of the public to petition the  
commissioner to designate a natural landmark.

25 3. Contracts to protect. The commissioner may enter into  
27 contracts on behalf of the State for the protection of a natural  
landmark or for the purchase of any interest in land to protect a  
29 designated natural landmark located on that land.

31 4. Listing. At least annually, the commissioner shall  
publish a list of all designated natural landmarks in the State.

33 STATEMENT OF FACT

35 The purpose of this bill is to recognize and protect  
37 significant naturally occurring landmarks in the State, such as  
39 rock formations, trees identified as the largest of their species  
41 in the State and other similar objects which are not protected  
43 under other state programs. If the Commissioner of Conservation  
45 determines that designation as a natural landmark is insufficient  
to protect the landmark, the commissioner may enter into  
contracts to protect the landmark or to purchase all or any  
interest in the land, including interests such as conservation  
easements, where the landmark is located.