

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1241

S.P. 456

In Senate, April 19, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

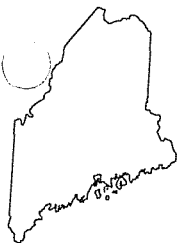
Presented by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative MICHAUD of East Millinocket, Representative O'DEA of Orono and Representative LORD of Waterboro.

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Study the Development of a System of Ecological Reserves in the State .



1 **Legislative findings. Resolved:** That the Legislature finds that:

3 1. Rapid changes are occurring in our environment,
5 including the land, water, atmosphere and climate, as a result of
human activities;

7 2. In order to identify and understand the impacts of these
9 changes it is necessary to study and monitor undisturbed
ecosystems;

11 3. The State has a vital interest in maintaining examples
13 of the State's characteristic ecosystems in their natural state
to provide ecological benchmarks in a changing world;

15 4. These undisturbed ecosystems also are critical to
17 preserving the State's natural heritage and diversity;

19 5. These areas can provide important opportunities for the
public to learn about the State's natural heritage; and

21 6. An effort to protect examples of characteristic state
23 ecosystems will complement existing state conservation programs,
such as the Critical Areas Program, the Land for Maine's Future
Fund and the Natural Heritage Data System; and be it further

25 **Study of Ecological Reserves. Resolved:** That the State Planning
27 Office shall coordinate a study effort to design a system of
ecological reserves in the State. For the purposes of this
29 resolve, "ecological reserves" means areas established to
maintain representative examples of the State's characteristic
31 natural ecosystems. The study should consider, but not be
limited to:

33 1. How many reserves should be established;

35 2. What ecosystem types should be represented;

37 3. How large the reserves should be;

39 4. Distribution of reserves around the State;

41 5. Appropriate uses for the reserves;

43 6. The potential impact of a reserve system on the State's
45 natural resource-based industries; and

47 7. Options for implementing the reserve system; and be it
49 further

1 **Inventory. Resolved:** That the study effort shall also include
3 an inventory of potential ecological reserve sites on public or
5 conservation ownerships. This inventory shall also identify
ecosystem types that are not currently represented on these
ownerships; and be it further

7 **Steering committee. Resolved:** That the State Planning Office
9 shall establish a steering committee to provide advice to the
11 study effort. The steering committee shall include
13 representatives from the Department of Conservation, the
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, conservation
interests, landowners and the university system; and be it further

15 **Report. Resolved:** That the State Planning Office shall
17 report its findings, together with any legislative
19 recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and natural resources
by February 1, 1991; and be it further

21 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are
23 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
this resolve.

	1989-90	1990-91
STATE PLANNING OFFICE		
Positions	(1)	(1)
Personal Services	\$30,000	\$45,000
Capital Expenditures	2,500	
All Other	13,500	15,500
Provides funds for a full-time senior planner, seasonal contracts for inventory work and expenses for staff and the steering committee.		
STATE PLANNING OFFICE		
TOTAL	<u>\$46,000</u>	<u>\$60,500</u>

STATEMENT OF FACT

43 The purpose of this resolve is to authorize a study to
45 design a system of ecological reserves to maintain undisturbed
47 examples of the State's characteristic natural ecosystems. These
49 areas are important as benchmarks for ecological studies, to
maintain biological diversity and for education. Their function
as ecological benchmarks is particularly important in light of
rapid changes which are occurring in our environment.

51

1 The resolve authorizes the State Planning Office to
coordinate the study which will also include an inventory of
3 potential sites on public and conservation ownerships. A
steering committee of diverse interests is designated to provide
5 advice on the study effort. A study report to the Legislature is
due from the State Planning Office by February 1, 1991.