

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1419

H.P. 1018

House of Representatives, May 2, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITCOMB of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Senator EMERSON of Penobscot, Representative BAILEY of Farmington and Senator TWITCHELL of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Establish a Technical Services Program in the Local Soil
and Water Conservation Districts.**



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

3 12 MRSA c. 1, sub-c. IV-A is enacted to read:

5 SUBCHAPTER IV-A

7 TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL SOIL AND
9 WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

11 §175. Findings and purpose

13 The Legislature finds that the state agencies need adequate
15 resources and an appropriate delivery system to provide
17 assistance to landowners and municipalities on effective
19 techniques to manage soil and water resources. The purpose of
21 this subchapter is to encourage local soil and water conservation
23 districts to deliver services to landowners and municipalities in
25 order to carry out new state mandated policy and programs
27 including, but not limited to, growth management, ground and
29 surface water protection, review of storm water and sedimentation
31 control plans of land developers and programs to encourage
33 profitable agriculture.

35 §176. Technical Assistance Fund

37 There is established the Technical Assistance Fund to
39 support the delivery of technical services by the soil and water
41 conservation districts. Funds shall be disbursed periodically by
43 the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

45 The commission shall establish rules for the distribution of
47 the funds. In awarding the money, the commission shall consider
49 among other factors the demand for the services, alternative
51 sources of assistance, the degree of local commitment and the
administrative capability of the districts. The commission may
impose conditions on the use of funds awarded that, in its
judgment, are best suited to accomplish the purpose of this
subchapter and ensure that money allotted by the commission is
properly spent by the districts.

41

43 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

45

47 This bill establishes a process for strengthening the
49 technical service potential of Maine's 16 soil and water
51 conservation districts. Currently, state agencies lack the
necessary delivery system to provide for adequate assistance to
landowners and municipalities on techniques effective in the
management of soil and water resources.

51

1 Under this bill, distribution of information and assistance
2 to help municipalities and landowners implement new
3 state-mandated policy and programs will be accomplished through
4 the use of the districts at the local level. The bill
5 establishes a fund to support the delivery of technical services
6 by conservation districts.

7
8 These funds would be disbursed through the Maine Soil and
9 Water Conservation Commission based on need, local commitment,
10 administrative capacity of the district and other criteria
11 developed by the commission.

12 Funding for this bill has been included in the Part II
13 budget request.

15