

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1691

S.P. 646

In Senate, April 25, 1991

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 BRANNIGAN of Cumberland  
Cosponsored by Representative JACQUES of Waterville.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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**An Act to Assist Municipalities to Design Growth Management  
Strategies That Are Compatible with Rural Landscapes.**

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

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5 MRSA §13111, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

6 9. Contracts. The director may administer a contract or a  
7 series of contracts, within available resources, with a  
8 department in the University of Maine System that offers a degree  
9 program in New England studies for the purpose of providing  
10 analysis and recommendations addressing the visual and pattern  
11 implications of land use standards on the landscape to rural  
12 municipalities in the development and evaluation of rural and  
13 growth district designations required under Title 30-A, section  
14 4326, subsection 3, paragraph A.

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The State's growth management laws require all municipalities to designate rural and growth areas that will be implemented through local zoning laws. For the majority of rural municipalities, zoning is a new concept. Traditional zoning standards, created for urban areas, are now understood to be inconsistent with rural New England settlement patterns and sense of place. This bill allows the University of Maine System's New England Studies Program to work, on a contractual basis through the Office of Comprehensive Land Use Planning, with rural municipalities and their advising agencies in analyzing proposed zoning standards to make sure they design the rural landscape in ways that are intended and compatible with the community's rural character.