

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2325

S.P. 905

In Senate, February 13, 1992

Submitted by the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring pursuant to Public Law 1991, chapter 139.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Establish Regional Boundaries for Natural Resource Services.

(EMERGENCY)

Printed on recycled paper



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

4 Whereas, regionalization of services offers significant
6 opportunities for improving the cost-effectiveness of natural
resource administration and enforcement; and

8 Whereas, the State must immediately begin consolidating its
10 natural resource administration and enforcement systems into
consistent regions; and

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

18 **Sec. 1. Regional boundaries for natural resource agencies.**

20 **Resolved:** That the Governor shall submit to the Joint Standing
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources by December 15, 1992 a
22 plan to unify regional administrative boundaries for all natural
resource agencies. The plan must be prepared by the Commissioner
24 of Environmental Protection; the Commissioner of Conservation;
the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; the
26 Commissioner of Marine Resources; and the Commissioner of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife with the assistance of the State Planning
28 Office and the advice of Legislators and community and regional
officials. The plan must be prepared in conjunction with the
30 efforts of the Director of the Bureau of General Services to
consolidate state-owned facilities. To the greatest extent
32 practicable, the plan must recommend uniform regional boundaries
for the departments and consolidation of regional resources
34 through interdepartmental location of offices, sharing of
equipment and data processing and other efficiency-enhancing
36 means. Uniform boundaries must be established in accordance with
the following criteria.

38 1. Regions must be small enough to provide adequate access
40 to services and to encourage local participation in regional
matters, but large enough to provide an adequate population base
42 for efficient and effective service planning and delivery.

44 2. Regions must be consistent with natural resource areas,
such as major watersheds, and support more effective and
46 coordinated planning and management of forest, land and water
resources, including fish and wildlife in inland and coastal
48 waters.

50 The plan must be submitted to the Legislature and the Office
of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council by December

15, 1992. New regional arrangements must be implemented no later
2 than December 31, 1993.

4 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
6

8 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

10 This resolve is one of the measures submitted by the Special
Commission on Governmental Restructuring. The resolve requires
12 the Governor to submit a plan that establishes regional
boundaries for natural resource agencies.
14