

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

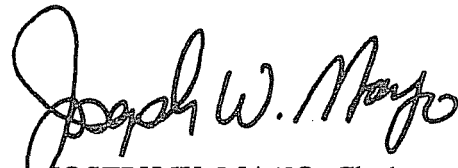
Legislative Document

No. 49

H.P. 41

House of Representatives, January 14, 1993

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAY of Sedgwick.

Cosponsored by Senator McCORMICK of Kennebec, Representative COLES of Harpswell and Representative GOULD of Greenville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Set Reasonable Dioxin Levels.

(EMERGENCY)

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

Whereas, current levels of dioxin contamination in the fish of several Maine rivers pose significant and unacceptable hazards to public health; and

Whereas, current levels of dioxin discharge are the primary cause of this contamination; and

Whereas, the Department of Environmental Protection has proposed an ambient water quality standard for dioxin that would not require any further reduction in dioxin discharges in virtually all cases; and

Whereas, the proposed standard is substantially more lenient than the standard established by the federal Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, the proposed standard, if adopted, would not require the maintenance of the current levels of dioxin discharge and would legally allow increases in dioxin contamination at many sources; and

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

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §420, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Dioxin. Dioxin, defined in section 420-A, subsection 1, in any concentration that causes the concentration of dioxin in the receiving waters to exceed 0.013 picograms per liter.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §420, sub-§2, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 856, §2 and affected by §7, is repealed.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes an ambient water quality standard for dioxin consistent with the guidance standard developed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and based on the best available scientific evidence.