MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 177

S.P. 76

In Senate, January 26, 1993

An Act to Amend Certain Laws Affecting Waste Discharges by Quasi-municipal Agencies.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DUTREMBLE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative CARON of Biddeford and
Senator CARPENTER of York, Representative MURPHY of Berwick.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §466, sub-§9-B, as amended by PL 1987, c. 419, §11, is further amended to read:

9-B. Quasi-municipal. "Quasi-municipal" means any form of ownership and management by a governmental unit embracing a portion of a municipality, a single municipality or several municipalities which that is created by law to deliver public waste water treatment services, or by a university or college providing waste water treatment for its facilities or related entities, but which that is not a state governmental unit.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Currently, the University of New England in Biddeford operates a private waste water treatment facility, there being no public sewer facilities available in the area. The university faces a threat to its future growth because the overboard discharge law as currently drafted would prohibit the university from increasing the volume of its licensed discharge in connection with planned construction of the new classrooms, laboratories and residences needed to accommodate its growing enrollment.

Recognizing that the waste water treatment services offered by the university are in many ways similar to services offered by publicly owned treatment works, this bill makes clear that the university enjoys quasi-municipal status for purposes of the overboard discharge law. In no way does this proposal reduce the overboard discharge standards. Any increase in the overboard discharge license of the university still must be in compliance with state and federal laws and rules.