

# 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. 609

H.P. 472

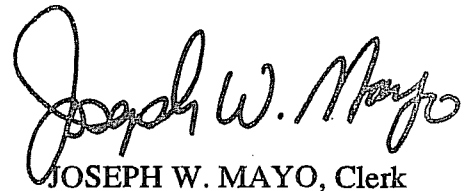
House of Representatives, February 23, 1993

---

**An Act to Establish the Maine Parks and Recreation Fund.**

---

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BARTH of Bethel, CHONKO of Topsham, GOULD of  
Greenville, JACQUES of Waterville, MARSH of West Gardiner, RICHARDSON of Portland,  
WENTWORTH of Arundel.

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

4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §610 is enacted to read:

6 §610. Maine Parks and Recreation Fund

8 1. Fund established. The Maine Parks and Recreation Fund,  
10 referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a  
12 nonlapsing fund administered by the commissioner for the purpose  
14 of improving existing state parks and acquiring additional state  
and municipal lands for public use. The money deposited with the  
Treasurer of State to the credit of the fund may be invested as  
provided by law. Interest on these investments is credited to  
the fund.

16 2. Fund source. The fund receives money from the revenues  
18 collected by the Maine Turnpike Authority pursuant to the  
provisions of Title 23, section 1973, subsection 4-A.

20 3. Purposes. Money in the fund must be used in the  
22 following proportions and for the following purposes:

24 A. One-third for capital expenditures in existing state  
parks to be administered by the bureau;

26 B. One-third for public land acquisition, to be  
28 administered by the Land for Maine's Future Board; and

30 C. One-third for a municipal grants program that will  
32 enable municipalities to acquire municipal parks and open  
space. The municipal grants program must be administered by  
the bureau.

34 Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1973, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

36 4-A. Toll surcharge. The authority shall charge a 10¢  
38 surcharge on every trip made on the turnpike from May 15th to  
November 15th of each year. The surcharge may not be levied on  
40 fares charged commuters under the discount system established  
under subsection 4, paragraph A. Revenues from this surcharge  
42 must be transferred to the Maine Parks and Recreation Fund as  
authorized by Title 12, section 610. The authority must be  
44 reimbursed for administrative costs incurred in collecting and  
transferring the surcharge.

46 Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §1974, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 1987, c.  
48 457, §6, is further amended to read:

50 F. Repayment to the Federal Government for grants or loans  
52 the proceeds of which were used in connection with the  
construction or reconstruction of any portion of the  
turnpike or of any interconnecting access roads, but only to

2 the extent that the repayment is required in order for the  
authority to continue to collect tolls on the turnpike; and

4 Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §1974, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1987, c.  
6 457, §7, is amended to read:

8 G. Payment or repayment to the Federal Government or any  
10 agency of the Federal Government of any charges, taxes or  
12 other payments required by law in connection with the  
construction, reconstruction or operation of the turnpike or  
the financing or refinancing of the turnpike or any part of  
the turnpike; and

14 Sec. 5. 23 MRSA §1974, sub-§1, ¶H is enacted to read:

16 H. Payment to the Maine Parks and Recreation Fund as  
18 authorized by Title 12, section 610.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 This bill establishes the Maine Parks and Recreation Fund,  
24 which is a nonlapsing dedicated account. This account is funded  
by a 10¢ surcharge levied on trips made on the Maine Turnpike  
26 from May 15th to November 15th of each year. The surcharge will  
not be levied on those using commuter passes. This funding  
mechanism links the frequent use of the Maine Turnpike by  
28 tourists with the financial burdens of providing state and  
municipal park facilities which are often used by tourists during  
30 this time period.

32 This fund is to be used for 3 specific purposes: One-third  
will go to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and  
34 Recreation to provide funding for capital expenditures; 1/3 will  
go to the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire public lands;  
36 and 1/3 will be used to establish a municipal grants program,  
which will be administered by the Bureau of Parks and  
38 Recreation. This municipal grants program will provide  
municipalities with funding to acquire municipal parks and open  
40 space.