

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 704

H.P. 520

House of Representatives, February 25, 1993

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**An Act to Reimburse Municipalities for Forest Fire Suppression Costs.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative STROUT of Corinth.  
Cosponsored by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro and  
Representatives: ANDERSON of Woodland, CARROLL of Gray, CLARK of Millinocket,  
CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft, DEXTER of Kingfield, DiPIETRO of South Portland, HEINO of  
Boothbay, HICHBORN of Howland, HUSSEY of Milo, LOOK of Jonesboro, LORD of  
Waterboro, PLOURDE of Biddeford, REED of Dexter, ROTONDI of Athens, TARDY of  
Palmyra, THOMPSON of Lincoln, Senators: CIANCHETTE of Somerset, GOULD of Waldo,  
PEARSON of Penobscot.

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

2  
3  
4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §9204, as repealed and replaced by PL 1991,  
c. 780, Pt. MM, §1, is amended to read:

6 **§9204. Payment of costs**

8 Municipalities shall pay the costs for controlling and  
9 extinguishing forest fires up to  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of their state  
10 valuation on a ~~calendar-year~~ calendar-year basis. ~~These costs~~  
11 ~~must be~~ The State shall reimburse the municipalities  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the  
12 costs approved by the forest fire warden in charge. A  
13 municipality going to the aid of another, even to protect itself,  
14 when requested by the state forest ranger in charge, is entitled  
15 to be paid by the municipality aided if the total suppression  
16 cost of the municipality is not over  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of its state  
valuation.

18  
19 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §9205, as amended by PL 1991, c. 780, Pt. MM,  
20 §2, is further amended to read:

22 **§9205. Payment of costs beyond  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of state valuation**

24 All forest fire suppression costs in municipalities in an  
25 amount greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of the state valuation of the  
26 municipality in which the fire occurred, excluding any costs for  
27 use or loss of that municipality's municipally owned equipment,  
28 must be paid by the State on a ~~calendar-year~~ calendar-year basis.  
29 Any municipality, in order to pay labor quickly, may pay beyond  
30  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of its state valuation and submit for full state  
31 reimbursement or forward the unpaid bills, approved by the state  
32 forest ranger in charge, for payment.

34  
35 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

36  
37 This bill reduces the maximum municipal liability for forest  
38 fire suppression costs.