

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1466

H.P. 1047

House of Representatives, May 2, 1995

An Act to Create an Adopt-A-River Program.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA c. 3, sub-c. IV** is enacted to read:

6 **SUBCHAPTER IV**

8 **THE MAINE ADOPT-A-RIVER PROGRAM ACT**

10 **§572. Maine Adopt-A-River Program Act**

12 This subchapter may be known and cited as the Maine Adopt-A-River Program Act.

14 **§573. Program established; responsibilities**

16 The Maine Adopt-A-River Program, referred to in this subchapter as the "program," is established.

18 1. Administration. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation shall administer the program, which is designed to remove litter from and to beautify the rivers of this State. The program may include public informational activities, but is directed primarily toward encouraging and facilitating involvement of volunteer groups in litter cleanup work by assigning each group to a specific river or stream segment.

20 2. Rules. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation may adopt rules necessary for implementation of the program.

22 3. Agreement. An agreement between the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and a volunteer group entered into under subsection 1 must include but is not limited to:

24 A. Identification of the designated river or stream segment. The volunteer group may request a specific segment of the river or stream it wishes to adopt but the assignment is at the discretion of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. In assigning sections of a river, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation shall coordinate and cooperate with affected federal, state and local management agencies and private landowners;

26 B. Specification of the duties of the volunteer group. The volunteer group shall remove litter along the designated river or stream segment at least once each year;

28 C. Specification of the responsibilities of the volunteer group. The volunteer group must abide by all rules related to the program that are adopted by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation; and

2 D. Duration of the agreement. An agreement to care for the
3 designated river or stream segment must be for at least 2
4 years.

6 4. Recognition program. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation
7 shall create a recognition program to acknowledge the efforts of
8 volunteer groups, agencies and businesses that participate in the
9 program.

10 5. Providing assistance. The Bureau of Parks and
11 Recreation shall provide trash bags, safety information and
12 assistance to the participating volunteer groups.

13 6. Large items found. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation
14 shall facilitate the removal of large or heavy items from a river
15 or stream segment if items are found by a volunteer group.

16 §574. Annual report

17 The Bureau of Parks and Recreation shall report annually by
18 January 1st to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
19 having jurisdiction over conservation matters on the
20 implementation and progress of the program established pursuant
21 to this Act.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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26 This bill establishes the Maine Adopt-A-River Program
27 administered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. It is based
28 on an Oregon law and is a volunteer program to remove litter from
29 state rivers.