

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1597

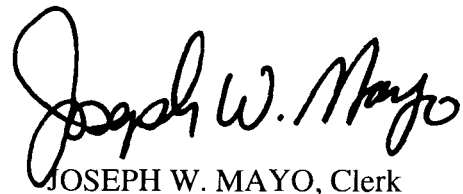
H.P. 1164

House of Representatives, November 30, 1995

An Act to Reduce the State Tax Valuation for the Town of Hope.

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SAVAGE of Union.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox.

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

4

6 Whereas, it is necessary that this legislation be enacted as
an emergency in order that decisions regarding county taxes,
school appropriations and any other decisions based on the just
8 value of property in the Town of Hope will be based on the
correct 1996 state valuation for Episcopal Camp Foundation's
10 property; and

12 Whereas, on October 20, 1995, the Maine Supreme Judicial
Court ruled that the property known as Bishopswood situated in
14 the Town of Hope is exempt from taxes; and

16 Whereas, awaiting the next valuation adjustment by the
State is a severe hardship to the Town of Hope; and

18

20 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
22 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

24

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

26

28 **Sec. 1. Correct 1996 state valuation.** Notwithstanding any other
provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, the 1996 state
valuation for the Town of Hope for the purposes of calculating
30 county taxes, school appropriations and any other decisions
regarding allocation of funds or assessment of taxes must be
based on the 1996 state valuation that values the property of the
32 Episcopal Camp Foundation, Inc. (Bishopswood) in Hope at \$0.

34

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

38

STATEMENT OF FACT

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42 The Town of Hope has suffered a hardship from the
precipitous loss in the value of Episcopal Camp Foundation's
property in Hope because of the judgment in favor of exempting
44 the foundation's property from taxes, but the state valuation on
which county tax assessments and school appropriations are based
46 is outdated and does not reflect the correct 1994 municipal
valuation of property in Hope and the current difficult financial
48 situation. This bill corrects the valuation figures.