

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 243

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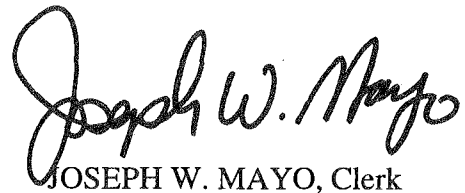
H.P. 190

House of Representatives, January 21, 1997

**An Act to Require the Department of Transportation to Include Timber  
in the Bidding Process for Construction of New Bridges or Bridge Repair.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Gray.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BODWELL of Brunswick, CAMPBELL of Holden, LANE  
of Enfield, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish, MURPHY of Kennebunk,  
SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §356 is enacted to read:**

6 **§356. Use of timber in bridge construction and reconstruction**

8 The department shall evaluate the cost-effectiveness of  
10 using timber in the construction, reconstruction or repair of all  
12 bridges for which the department is responsible under this  
14 chapter. When the department intends to contract for the  
16 construction, reconstruction or repair of a bridge, the  
18 department shall require all bidders to specify timber components  
20 used in the proposed design. The department shall give  
22 preference to designs using timber components when the  
24 cost-effectiveness of these designs is demonstrated to be equal  
26 to or superior to other designs.

28 **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of timber in bridge construction, reconstruction or repair projects and for the department to request information on the use of timber in designs submitted under a bidding process for bridge construction, reconstruction or repair. The department is directed to give preference to timber construction when these designs are cost-effective.