

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

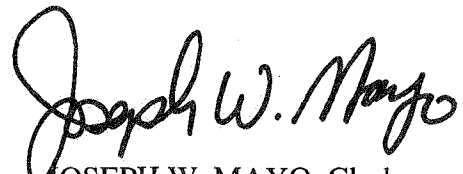
No. 357

H.P. 293

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Penalties for Late Filing by a Municipality under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOOLEY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAKER of Dixfield, BERRY of Livermore, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, JONES of Greenville, WHEELER of Bridgewater, WINSOR of Norway,
Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, FERGUSON of Oxford.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §578, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1993, c. 452, §4, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

~~In tax years beginning on or after April 1, 1988, the~~ The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the amount of acreage in each municipality that is classified and taxed in accordance with this subchapter. A municipality actually levying and collecting municipal property taxes and within whose boundaries this acreage lies is entitled to annual payments from money appropriated by the Legislature provided it submits an annual return in accordance with section 383 and it achieves the appropriate minimum assessment ratio described in section 327. ~~For the property tax year based on the status of property on April 1, 1988, the per acre reimbursement amount increases from 15¢ to 24¢.~~ For property tax years based on the status of property on April 1, 1989 or thereafter, the per acre reimbursement is 90% of the per acre tax revenue lost as a result of this subchapter. For purposes of this section, the tax lost is the tax that would have been assessed, but for this subchapter, on the classified forest lands if they were assessed according to the undeveloped acreage valuations used in the state valuation then in effect, or according to the current local valuation on undeveloped acreage, whichever is less, minus the tax that was actually assessed on the same lands in accordance with this subchapter. A municipality that fails to achieve the minimum assessment ratio established in section 327 loses 10% of the reimbursement provided by this section for each one percentage point the minimum assessment ratio falls below the ratio established in section 327. The State Tax Assessor shall allow a 30-day grace period for the submission of applications for reimbursement under this paragraph. If a municipality submits its application for reimbursement under this paragraph more than 30 days but less than one year after the deadline established by the State Tax Assessor and the application meets all other requirements for reimbursement, the State Tax Assessor shall reduce the amount of reimbursement paid by 20%. If the municipality submits its application for reimbursement under this paragraph one year or more after the deadline established by the State Tax Assessor, reimbursement may not be paid.

SUMMARY

This bill provides that a municipality submitting an after deadline application for reimbursement under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law may receive the full payment if the application is

not more than 30 days late. If the application is 30 days late
2 but not more than a year late, the reimbursement is reduced by
20%. Municipalities that submit their applications a year or
4 more late will receive no reimbursement.