

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 805

S.P. 236

In Senate, February 4, 1997

An Act to Create the Oquossoc Standard Water District.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENOIT of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative BARTH of Bethel and
Senators: BUTLAND of Cumberland, CASSIDY of Washington, Representative:
LaVERDIERE of Wilton.

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,** there have been a number of private wells in the
Village of Oquossoc in the Town of Rangeley that have been
contaminated with hydrocarbons and pose a serious threat to the
8 health and well-being of the inhabitants of the area; and

10 **Whereas,** an adequate supply of pure water is essential to
the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the Village of
12 Oquossoc; and

14 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
16 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
18 safety; now therefore,

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

22 **Sec. 1. Territorial limits; corporate name.** Pursuant to the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, chapter 64, that part of the
24 Town of Rangeley described as follows:

26 Beginning at the intersection of the eastern shore of the
Rangeley River and Route 4, thence east along the northern
28 edge of Route 4 to the intersection of the Berkshire Road
(Quimby Wilds Road), thence north along the western edge of
30 the Berkshire Road to its end, thence westerly to 70°45'N,
thence north along the 70°45' longitude to the intersection
32 of 45°00 W, thence west to the intersection of Whetstone
Brook, thence west by southwest along the southern shore of
34 the Whetstone Brook, to the western shore of the Kennebago
River, thence southerly to Indian Rock, thence south across
36 Cupsuptic Lake to the northern point of Oquossoc, thence
west by southwest along the shoreline of Cupsuptic Lake to
38 Haines Landing and the intersection of Route 4, thence east
along the northern edge of Route 4 to the intersection of
40 the Bald Mountain Road, thence southerly to the intersection
of the Rangeley-Rangeley Plantation town line, thence
42 easterly along said line to the intersection of Route 17,
thence northerly along the eastern edge of Route 17 to the
44 intersection of Town of Rangeley Shore Road, thence
northerly along the eastern edge of the Rangeley Shore Road
46 to the intersection of Route 4, thence east along Route 4 to
the point of beginning and its inhabitants constitute a
48 standard district under the name "Oquossoc Standard Water
District" and is referred to in this Act as "the district."

2 **Sec. 2. Powers; authority; duties.** The district has all the
4 powers and authority and is subject to all the requirements and
restrictions provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,
chapter 64.

6
8 The management and allocation of the Oquossoc Standard Water
District of a contribution of funds by the State under the Maine
10 Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1364, subsection 5, and the
income from those funds, are not subject to investigation or
12 review by the Public Utilities Commission under Title 35-A,
section 310, 1302 or 1303, except upon request by the Department
of Environmental Protection.

14 Pursuant to Title 35-A, section 6403, subsection 2,
16 paragraph D, the Oquossoc Standard Water District is authorized
to take water from anywhere west of Hunter Cove.

18 **Sec. 3. Number of trustees; qualifications.** The board of
20 trustees of the district is composed of 5 trustees, all of whom
must be residents of the district or own real estate located
22 within the district.

24 **Sec. 4. Election of first board.** The first board is elected
in an election called by the municipal officers of the Town of
26 Rangeley within 6 months of approval of this Act by the voters in
accordance with section 6.

28 **Sec. 5. Terms of trustees.** After the election of the first
30 board, trustees are elected to 3-year terms.

32 **Sec. 6. Emergency clause; referendum; effective date.** In view
of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect
34 when approved only for the purpose of permitting its submission
to the legal voters within the Town of Rangeley at an election
36 called for that purpose and held by July 1, 1998. The election
must be called, advertised and conducted according to the law
38 relating to municipal elections, except that the registrar of
voters is not required to prepare or the clerk to post a new list
40 of voters. For the purpose of registration of voters, the
registrar of voters shall be in session the secular day next
42 preceding the election. The subject matter of this Act must be
reduced to the following question:

44 "Do you favor creating the Oquossoc Standard Water District?"

46 The voters shall indicate by cross or check mark placed
48 against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same.

2 The results must be declared by the municipal officers of
the Town of Rangeley and due certificate of the results filed by
the clerk with the Secretary of State.

4
6 This Act takes effect for all purposes immediately upon its
approval by a majority of the legal voters voting at the
election. Failure to achieve the necessary approval in any
8 referendum does not prohibit subsequent referenda consistent with
this section, provided the referenda are held prior to July 1,
10 1998.

12
14 **SUMMARY**

This bill creates the Oquossoc Standard Water District.