

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

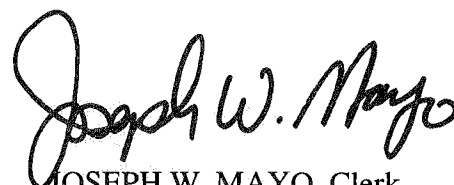
No. 1198

H.P. 881

House of Representatives, February 25, 1997

An Act to Protect Maine's Wild Lands.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHIAH of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, BULL of Freeport, FISK of Falmouth, JONES of Bar
Harbor, McKEE of Wayne, Senator: CLEVELAND of Androscoggin.

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

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4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §685-F is enacted to read:

6 **§685-F. Construction prohibited**

8 1. Prohibition. No new residential or commercial structure
10 may be constructed after the effective date of this section in
12 the following areas:

14 A. Androscoggin headwaters, approximately 400,000 acres
16 along the New Hampshire border from the eastern edge of the
18 Mahoosuc Mountains north to the Canadian border;

20 B. Western mountains, approximately 730,000 acres east of
22 the Canadian border, south from Boundary Bald Mountain, west
24 of Route 201 and north of the southern bases of Saddleback
26 and Sugarloaf mountains;

28 C. Upper St. John River Valley, approximately 1 million
30 acres encompassing the St. John River watershed upstream of
32 Allagash;

34 D. Greater Baxter State Park area, approximately 1.3
36 million acres surrounding Baxter State Park from Churchill
38 Lake south to Katahdin Iron Works; and

40 E. Down east lakes, approximately 1.1 million acres north
42 of Route 1, west of the St. Croix River and Pocomoonshine
44 Lake, south of Route 6 and from Nicatous Lake east.

46 2. Rules. The commission shall clarify by rule the
48 specific boundaries of the areas listed above and prepare maps
50 showing those boundaries. Rules adopted under this subsection
52 are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
54 subchapter II-A.

56 3. Exemptions. While ensuring that certain core areas of
58 Maine's wild lands remain unfragmented by development, the
60 commission may adopt rules, including those that establish a
62 permitting system, which permit structures designed for use in
64 conjunction with dispersed, primitive recreation, structures that
66 are a part of commercial sporting camps, structures that are
68 related to existing residential structures, temporary structures
70 used in conjunction with forest management activities and other
72 similar types of structures. Rules adopted under this subsection
74 are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
76 subchapter II-A.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill ensures that certain core areas of Maine's wild
residential and commercial development in certain areas. This
8 bill protects sustainable timber harvesting activities by
ensuring that incompatible residential and commercial uses do not
10 impinge on areas historically used for timber harvesting.