

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY
NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1121, L.D. 1577, Bill, "An Act to Eliminate Paper Mill Dioxin and Restore Maine's Rivers"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§414-D.~~" by striking out all of subsection 3 and inserting in its place the following:

'3. Schedule of compliance. The commissioner shall establish a schedule of compliance with the zero dioxin effluent limitation that must be met by December 31, 2002. The commissioner may extend the schedule of compliance for a mill for a specific length of time, but not beyond December 31, 2007, if the commissioner determines, based on information presented by the mill, that compliance with the zero dioxin effluent limitation is not achievable by the deadline due to engineering constraints, availability of equipment or other justifiable technical reasons.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§414-D.~~" by inserting after subsection 8 the following:

'9. Low effluent. By December 31, 2002, all kraft pulp and paper mills in the State shall have a bleach plant wastewater flow of 5m³/kkg or less of air-dried bleached pulp. The commissioner may extend this deadline for a mill for a specific length of time, but not beyond December 31, 2007, if the commissioner determines, based on information presented by the mill, that compliance with the low effluent standard is not achievable by the deadline due to engineering constraints, availability of equipment or other justifiable technical reasons.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.S.

2 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

4 'Sec. 2. Report; financial incentives. The Commissioner of
6 Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Economic and
8 Community Development shall report to the joint standing
10 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural
12 resources matters by January 15, 1999 on recommendations relating
to assistance in the financing of capital investments to assist
mills in achieving the requirement in the Maine Revised Statutes,
Title 38, section 414-D, subsection 9 for reduced bleach plant
wastewater flow.'

14 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
16 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
consecutively.

18 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
20 summary the following:

22 **FISCAL NOTE**

24 This bill may increase prosecutions for Class E crimes. If
26 a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties
are estimated to be \$83.78 per day per prisoner. These costs are
28 not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may
result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county
jail system are expected to be insignificant.

30 The additional workload and administrative costs associated
32 with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system
can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial
34 Department. The collection of additional fines may increase
General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

36 The Department of Environmental Protection will incur some
38 minor additional costs to establish certain schedules of
compliance and some additional enforcement costs. These costs
40 can also be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted
resources.

42 The Department of Environmental Protection and the
44 Department of Economic and Community Development will incur some
minor additional costs to submit a required report to the
46 Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within the departments'
existing budgeted resources.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, requires all kraft pulp and paper mills in the State to have a bleach plant wastewater flow of 5m³/kkg or less of air-dried bleached pulp by December 31, 2002. The amendment also authorizes the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to extend the schedule of compliance with the zero dioxin effluent limitation or the low effluent standard for a specific length of time for a mill, but not beyond December 31, 2007, if the commissioner determines, based on information presented by the mill, that compliance is not achievable by the deadline due to engineering constraints, availability of equipment or other justifiable technical reasons.

The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters by January 15, 1999 on recommendations relating to assistance in the financing of capital investments to assist mills in achieving the requirement for reduced bleach plant wastewater flow.

Finally, the amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.