

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1907

S.P. 682

In Senate, December 2, 1997

**An Act Regarding Short-rotation Tree Fiber Farming and Genetically Engineered Trees.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 2, 1997. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 308.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator FERGUSON of Oxford.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8868, sub-§§2-A and 3-A** are enacted to read:

6       **2-A. Genetically engineered tree.** "Genetically engineered  
8       tree" means a tree selected for its fast growth, pest resistance  
10       and other special characteristics by tree improvement and  
12       breeding methods.

14       **3-A. Short rotation tree fiber farming.** "Short rotation  
16       tree fiber farming" means the production, cultivation, growing  
18       and harvesting of genetically engineered tree species for  
20       rotation periods not to exceed 15 years between planting and  
22       harvesting.

24       **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8869, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

26       **13. Exempt.** Short rotation tree fiber farming is exempt  
28       from the rules established by the commissioner under this  
30       subchapter.

#### SUMMARY

24       This bill adds the definitions of "genetically engineered  
26       tree" and "short rotation tree fiber farming" to the forest  
28       practices laws. The bill also exempts short rotation tree fiber  
30       farming from the rules established by the Commissioner of  
Conservation under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter  
805, subchapter III-A.