

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1267

S.P. 430

In Senate, February 16, 1999

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Aroostook Water and Soil
Management Board and to Provide Funding for a Low-flow Study.**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry 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 KIEFFER of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska and
Senators: CASSIDY of Washington, KILKELLY of Lincoln, NUTTING of Androscoggin,
PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: DUNCAN of Presque Isle, KNEELAND of Easton,
PIEH of Bremen, SHERMAN of Hodgdon.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §332, sub-§§5 and 7**, as enacted by PL 1987, c.
4 435, §3, are amended to read:

6 **5. Responsibilities.** The board shall coordinate all state
8 and local efforts concerning irrigation activity in Aroostook
10 County and with respect to implementation of the United States
12 Army Corps of Engineers Conservation Research/Demonstration
14 Program, referred to in this section as the "program."
16 Coordination includes, but is not limited to:

18 A. Determining research priorities and informational needs
20 relative to improved water and soil management practices;

22 B. Entering into agreements with ~~the United States Army~~
24 ~~Corps of Engineers, the University of Maine System, the~~
26 ~~United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation~~
28 ~~Service, the United States Department of Agriculture~~
30 ~~Agricultural Research Service, local soil and water~~
32 ~~conservation districts, state agencies~~ federal, state and
34 local governmental units and agencies, private organizations
36 and individuals to carry out research, demonstration and
38 informational activities related to the program or to
40 irrigation activities in Aroostook County;

42 C. Assuring that new information developed by the program
44 board is effectively disseminated; and

46 D. Evaluating progress of the program and making
48 recommendations regarding its future direction.

50 **7. Report.** The board shall report at least annually to the
joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
over agriculture. The report shall must include an accounting of
its meetings and actions, including agreements entered into,
status of demonstration projects, research findings,
informational activities and an evaluation of the program, with
recommendations regarding irrigation activities in Aroostook
County and changes or improvements in the program.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,		
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES		

Low-flow Study		
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2 All Other \$25,000 \$25,000
4 Provides funds to pay United
6 States Geological Survey to
8 conduct low-flow study in
10 Aroostook County.

12 **SUMMARY**

12 The Aroostook Water and Soil Management Board exists under
14 current law specifically to assist in the implementation of the
16 United States Army Corps of Engineers Conservation
18 Research/Demonstration Program. This bill expands the board's
20 responsibilities to include coordinating all irrigation
activities in Aroostook County. This bill also appropriates
\$25,000 per year for the next 2 years to fund a low-flow study to
be conducted by the United States Geological Survey.