

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1458

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H.P. 1036

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

**An Act to Allow Cutting of Trees in the Shoreland Zone Under Certain Conditions.**

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Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Gray.  
Cosponsored by Senator FERGUSON of Oxford and  
Representatives: GAGNE of Buckfield, GILLIS of Danforth, GOOLEY of Farmington,  
HONEY of Boothbay, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, PINKHAM of Lamoine, TRAHAN  
of Waldoboro.

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

**Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §439-A, sub-§5, ¶¶B and C,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1991, c. 66, Pt. A, §10, are amended to read:

B. Within a shoreland area zoned for resource protection abutting a great pond there may not be timber harvesting within the strip of land extending 75 feet inland from the normal high-water line except to remove safety hazards; and

C. Any site within a shoreland area zoned for resource protection abutting a great pond, beyond the 75-foot strip restricted in paragraph B, where timber is harvested must be reforested within 2 growing seasons after the completion of the harvest, according to guidelines adopted by the board. The board shall adopt guidelines consistent with minimum stocking standards established under Title 12, section 8869-; and

**Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §439-A, sub-§5, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. Selective timber harvesting may occur in a resource protection zone around a forested wetland associated with a great pond and a resource protection zone having slopes of 20% or greater provided that:

(1) A well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation remains;

(2) The harvesting does not result in the removal of more than 40% of the trees 4 inches or more in diameter, measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground level, in any 10-year period; and

(3) The harvesting occurs only when the ground is frozen.

**SUMMARY**

This bill allows selective harvesting of up to 40% of the trees 4 inches or more in diameter over a 10-year period in resource protection zones around certain forested wetlands and in resource protection zones with slopes greater than 20%. The harvesting must leave a well-distributed stand of trees and other natural vegetation and may take place only when the ground is frozen.