

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
A.S.

L.D. 1550

DATE: 5-4-99

(Filing No. H- 425)

NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1103, L.D. 1550, "Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study the Improvement of Public Water Supply Protection"

Amend the resolve by striking out all of the preamble (page 1, lines 1 to 16 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, public water supply protection is a voluntary activity wherein the water supplier has limited power to protect its own resources; and

Whereas, contamination with bacteria, nitrates, hydrocarbon and fuel products and pesticides and other toxic chemicals remains a common concern for public water suppliers in Maine despite existing programs; and

Whereas, the Governor has made the protection of public water supplies a priority in plans for providing safe water to the citizens of the State; and

Whereas, recent events have demonstrated the susceptibility of public water supply wells to unexpected contamination;

Whereas, a study of public water supply protection must be initiated promptly in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for the next legislative session; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it'

Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first named Senate member is the Senate chair of the task force and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve in section 3 in the last 2 lines (page 2, lines 11 and 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: ". The task force shall select a chair from among its members"

Further amend the resolve in section 4 in subsection 2 by striking out all of paragraphs D and E (page 2, lines 29 to 32 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

'D. Facilities handling or selling pesticides;

E. The spreading of sludge or other residuals; and

F. Surface water uses posing threats to drinking water quality; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve in section 7 in the 3rd and 4th lines (page 2, line 47 and page 3, line 1 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the"

Further amend the resolve in section 8 by striking out all of the 4th line (page 3, line 8 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following: '1999-00'

Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 8 the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

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

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

FISCAL NOTE

1999-00

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$3,360

This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$3,360 in fiscal year 1999-00 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members of the Public Water Supply Protection Task Force.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection will incur some minor additional costs to provide staffing for the Public Water Supply Protection Task Force. These costs can be absorbed within the departments' existing budgeted resources.

The Department of Human Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members of the task force. These costs can be absorbed within the departments' existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the resolve. The amendment specifies that the cochairs of the Public Water Supply Protection Task Force are appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. It adds as a duty of the task force the identification of steps to improve protection of public water supply wells and intakes from surface water uses posing threats to drinking water quality. The amendment specifies that the task force shall submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

The amendment makes a technical change in the fiscal year in the appropriation.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the resolve.