

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1994

H.P. 1389

House of Representatives, March 23, 1999

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Unlawful Cutting of Trees.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FOSTER of Gray.
Cosponsored by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook and
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, DAIGLE of Arundel, GOOLEY of Farmington, JODREY
of Bethel, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, Senator: BENNETT
of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7552, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1997, c.
4 214, §1, is further amended to read:

6 B. For lost trees, the owner may claim in lieu of market
8 value the forfeiture amounts determined in Title 17, section
10 2510, subsections 2 and 3. The presiding judge or jury
12 shall determine which measure of damages is awarded
14 irrespective of whether the owner claims market value or
16 forfeiture. In addition, the owner's damages may include
18 the costs for regeneration of the stand in accordance with
20 Title 12, section 8869.

SUMMARY

18 This bill requires the court to decide whether damages
20 awarded in a civil suit for unlawful cutting of trees are based
upon market value or the forfeiture amount in the Maine Revised
Statutes, Title 17.