

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2211

H.P. 1554

House of Representatives, April 21, 1999

Resolve, to Modify the State Valuation for the Sappi Plant in the City of Westbrook.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 20, 1999. Referred to the Committee on Taxation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative USHER of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRYANT of Dixfield, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, Senator: LIBBY of York.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** the value of property within a municipality has a
strong effect on the calculation of county taxes, school
appropriations and municipal revenue sharing; and

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10 **Whereas,** the City of Westbrook derives a large portion of
its tax valuation from the presence of the former SD Warren
plant, now owned by Sappi Fine Paper North America; and

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14 **Whereas,** Sappi has recently announced the closure of its
pulp mill and a machine that makes coated base paper at the
facility in Westbrook; and

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18 **Whereas,** not only will this closure adversely affect
approximately 315 employees, but the property valuation of the
plant has decreased immensely, causing a decrease in property tax
revenues for the City of Westbrook; and

22 **Whereas,** unless immediate action is taken to account for
this decrease in valuation, the City of Westbrook will also
suffer through the loss of significant revenues based on the
decreased valuation of the Sappi plant; and

26
28 **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

32
34 **Sec. 1. Modify 1999 and 2000 state valuations. Resolved:** That
notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, the 1999
and 2000 state valuations for the City of Westbrook, for the
purposes of calculating county taxes, school appropriations and
municipal revenue sharing funds, must be based on a valuation
that values the property of Sappi Fine Paper North America in the
City of Westbrook at \$125,000,000 and \$95,000,000, respectively.

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

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SUMMARY

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4 This resolve establishes the state valuation, for purposes
6 of calculation of county taxes, school appropriations and revenue
sharing, for the Sappi Fine Paper North America plant located in
the City of Westbrook at \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and
\$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.