MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2638

S.P. 1048

In Senate, March 21, 2000

Resolve, Authorizing a Land Transaction by the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KONTOS of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL). Cosponsored by Representative FOSTER of Gray and Senators: HARRIMAN of Cumberland, KILKELLY of Lincoln, NUTTING of Androscoggin, Representatives: McKENNEY of Cumberland, PIEH of Bremen.

Preamble. Whereas, the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 requires that real estate held by the State for conservation purposes may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of 2/3 of all members elected to each House; and

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Whereas, the nonreserved public lands authorized for conveyance by this resolve are under the designations described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A; and

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Whereas, the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation may execute deeds on behalf of the State for nonreserved public lands, conveying lands that have been authorized for conveyance by the Legislature or sold by lawful authority subject to the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands authorized to convey certain nonreserved public lands in Maine. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation may by quitclaim deed, and subject to certain restrictions and reservations to be agreed upon by the director, convey the following property for not less than fair market value to October Corporation, a Maine nonprofit corporation with a mailing address of One Canal Plaza, P.O. Box 426, Portland, Maine 04112-0426, contingent upon exercise of an "Option Agreement" between the State, acting through the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, and October Corporation the effective date of which is January 10, 2000, the "Option Agreement":

The State of Maine's right, title and interest in and to approximately 600 acres of nonreserved public lands located in the towns of New Gloucester, North Yarmouth and Gray, Maine; and generally described as approximately 300 acres leased for agricultural use and approximately 300 acres of interspersed woodlands generally contiguous to or in the vicinity of the Pineland Facility land parcel that is the "Option Agreement" with subject of the the delineation, acreage and description of such nonreserved public lands to be sold to be determined by a survey to be conducted by October Corporation; and be it further

Sec. 2. Use of proceeds from sale of property. Resolved: That the proceeds from the sale of the property described in section 1 must be used to purchase land in Cumberland County, subject to the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-B; and be it further

Sec. 3. Property exempt from certain laws and requirements. Resolved: That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulatory requirement, the property transferred pursuant to this resolve may not first be offered to the Maine State Housing Authority or any other state or local agency; and be it further

Sec. 4. Sale not subject to conditions. Resolved: That notwithstanding Resolve 1975, chapter 6, the transfer of property authorized by this resolve is not subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions set forth in Resolve 1975, chapter 6, section 4 and the terms, conditions and restrictions are released and repealed as they relate to the property to be transferred pursuant to this resolve.

SUMMARY

This resolve authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation to convey, by quitclaim deed and subject to certain conditions, approximately 600 acres of nonreserved public lands in the towns of New Gloucester, North Yarmouth and Gray to October Corporation for not less than fair market value. These nonreserved public lands, which consist of approximately 300 acres currently leased for agricultural use and approximately 300 acres of interspersed woodlands, are generally contiguous to or in the vicinity of the Pineland Facility campus.

The conveyance is contingent upon exercise of an "Option Agreement," dated January 10, 2000, between the State and October Corporation for the purchase of certain state-owned parcels of real estate and certain buildings associated with the State's Pineland Facility situated primarily in the Town of New Gloucester.

Proceeds from the sale of the nonreserved public lands of the Bureau of Parks and Lands will be used to purchase land to be managed for similar purposes in Cumberland County.