

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 374

H.P. 296

House of Representatives, January 30, 2001

An Act to Protect Maine Jobs and Natural Resources.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PINEAU of Jay.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLWELL of Gardiner, DUNLAP of Old Town,
MATTHEWS of Winslow, STANLEY of Medway, Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

6 **1-B. Developer of groundwater resources.** "Developer of
groundwater resources" means any public water system that
develops a significant groundwater aquifer primarily for the
distribution and sale of bottled water.

10 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§4-G** is enacted to read:

12 **4-G. Public water system.** "Public water system" has the
same meaning as in Title 22, section 2601, subsection 8.

14 **Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §489-E** is enacted to read:

16 **§489-E. Obligations of developers of groundwater resources**

18 **1. Obligations to existing Maine workers.** An employer who
operates an existing public water system, has employees in the
State and proposes to become a developer of groundwater resources
may not discriminate against its current employees when hiring
for the newly developed facility. When positions in the new
facility become available, the employer shall offer existing
employees in good standing the opportunity to transfer to the
same or a similar position at the same or a similar wage.

28 **2. Applicability.** This section applies to all developers
of groundwater resources that commence the distribution and sale
of bottled water from a new facility on or after January 1, 2002.

32 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill amends the site location of development laws to
36 place certain restrictions on companies developing a significant
groundwater aquifer for the purpose of selling bottled water. It
38 requires that an employer who operates an existing public water
system, primarily distributes bottled water, has employees in
40 this State and develops a significant groundwater aquifer may not
discriminate against its current employees when hiring for the
42 newly developed facility. The employer shall offer existing
employees in good standing the opportunity to transfer to the
44 same or a similar position, at the same or a similar wage, in the
new facility.