MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TAXATION

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 121ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "T" to H.P. 143, L.D. 184, Bill, "An Act to Clarify the Ability of the Maine Forest Service and Tax Assessors to View Private Landowners' Forest Management Plans"

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Amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of the indented paragraph (page 1, lines 6 to 17 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

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'The or assessor the assessor's duly authorized representative may enter and examine the forest lands under this subchapter and may examine any information submitted by the owner A copy of the forest management and harvest plan or owners. required under section 574-B must be available to the assessor to review upon request and to the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation or the director's designee to review upon request when the assessor seeks assistance in accordance with section 575-A. For the purposes of this paragraph, "to review" means to see or possess a copy of a plan for a reasonable amount of time to verify that the plan exists or to facilitate an evaluation as to whether the plan is appropriate and is being followed. Upon completion of the review, the plan must be returned to the owner or an agent of the owner. A forest management and harvest plan provided in accordance with this section is confidential and is not a public record as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment permits a tax assessor or the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation to

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review a forest management plan. The review permits the assessor or the director to see or possess the plan for a reasonable period of time to verify compliance with a forest management plan under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Upon completion of the review, the plan must be returned to the owner or the owner's agent.

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