

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 184

H.P. 143

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

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**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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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative JODREY of Bethel.  
Cosponsored by Senator KNEELAND of Aroostook and  
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, McKEE of Wayne, PINEAU of  
Jay, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, Senator: BRYANT of Oxford.

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

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**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §579, 4th ¶**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 603,  
4 §6, is further amended to read:

6

The assessor or the assessor's duly authorized  
representative may enter and examine the forest lands under this  
8 subchapter and may examine any information submitted by the owner  
or owners. A copy of the forest management and harvest plan  
10 required under section 574-B must be available ~~to~~ only for the  
assessor to view upon request and ~~to~~ for the Director of the  
12 Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation or the  
director's designee to view upon request when the assessor seeks  
14 assistance in accordance with section 575-A. A forest management  
and harvest plan provided in accordance with this section is  
16 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 bill provides that a copy of a forest management and  
harvest plan for land taxed pursuant to the Maine Tree Growth Tax  
24 Law must be available only for a tax assessor to view upon  
request and for the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the  
Department of Conservation or the director's designee to view  
26 upon request in certain circumstances.