

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 777

H.P. 576

House of Representatives, February 18, 2003

An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Location of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINS of Wells.
Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of York and
Representatives: BOWEN of Rockport, BROWN of South Berwick, CROSTHWAITE of
Ellsworth, McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth, MURPHY of Kennebunk, PEAVEY-
HASKELL of Greenbush, RECTOR of Thomaston, STONE of Berwick.

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

4 **Sec. 1. P&SL 1989, c. 108, §4** is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 4. Location of the reserve.** The reserve contains
8 approximately ~~1,600~~ acres is located in the Town of Wells and
10 includes lands between the Little River to the north and the
12 Eldridge River to the south. The boundary to the east parallels
the shoreline, excluding the shoreline development, and to the
west ~~is bordered by the coastal wetland margin~~ includes lands
adjacent to the Wells coastal wetlands and within the drainage
basins of their tributary streams. Specifically, the reserve
contains:

14 1. Lands in the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
16 managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

18 2. Land purchased or acquired for a state park managed by
20 the ~~Bureau of Parks and Recreation~~ Department of Conservation;

22 3. Submerged tidal lands managed by the ~~Bureau of Public~~
Lands Department of Conservation;

24 4. Land purchased by the Town of Wells or the State; and

26 5. Land donated by the Town of Wells to the Department of
Conservation as a conservation easement; and

28 6. Other lands or interests in land in the location
30 described in this section acquired by the reserve from willing
32 sellers or added to the reserve by agreement for the purpose of
furthering the reserve's conservation, research or educational
programs.

34 **Sec. 2. P&SL 1989, c. 108, §6, sub-§5** is amended to read:

36 5. Within 120 days after the close of its fiscal year, the
38 authority shall provide a copy of its annual financial report
certified by an independent certified public accountant selected
40 by the authority to the Commissioner of Conservation, the
Director of the State Planning Office, the Treasurer of State,
42 the State Auditor and the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Energy and~~
~~Natural Resources~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature
44 having jurisdiction over conservation matters. The financial
46 report must comply with federal Office of Management and Budget
requirements.

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SUMMARY

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4 This bill provides that the Wells National Estuarine
6 Research Reserve contains lands or interests in land within the
8 defined location of the reserve acquired from willing sellers or
10 added to the reserve by agreement for the purpose of furthering
12 the reserve's conservation, research or educational purposes.

14 The bill also changes references to the Bureau of Parks and
16 Recreation and the Bureau of Public Lands to the Department of
18 Conservation.

20 Finally, the bill requires the Wells National Estuarine
22 Research Reserve Management Authority to provide a copy of its
24 annual financial report to the joint standing committee of the
26 Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters.
28 Current law requires the authority to provide a copy of this
30 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural
32 Resources.