

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1017

H.P. 701

House of Representatives, February 24, 2005

An Act To Fight Sprawl and Ensure That Public Lands Are Equitably Distributed

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative JOY of Crystal.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HOTHAM of Dixfield, JACOBSEN of Waterboro,
McFADDEN of Dennysville, PINKHAM of Lexington Township, SYKES of Harrison,
VAUGHAN of Durham.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §6206, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 728, §8, is further amended to read:

6 D. In accordance with the strategy and guidelines developed
8 under paragraph A, authorize distribution of proceeds from
10 the Land for Maine's Future Fund and the Public Access to
 Maine Waters Fund for acquisitions of property or interests
 in property; and

12 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §6206, sub-§1, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 548, §2, is further amended to read:

14 E. On January 1st of every odd-numbered year, report to the
16 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
18 jurisdiction over matters pertaining to state parks and
20 public lands on expenditures from the Land for Maine's
22 Future Fund and the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund and
24 revisions to the strategies and guidelines. This report
26 must include a description of access to land and interest in
28 land acquired during the report period. If an acquisition
30 has been made that does not include guaranteed public
 vehicular access to the land acquired, the board must
 provide justification for that acquisition and a plan for
 continuing efforts to acquire guaranteed public access to
 the land. This report must include a summary of the board's
 experience during the reporting period with projects funded
 pursuant to section 6203 or 6203-A and in which the land or
 interest in land is acquired by a cooperating entity; and

32 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §6206, sub-§1, ¶F** is enacted to read:

34 F. Report annually to the joint standing committee of the
36 Legislature having jurisdiction over matters pertaining to
38 state parks and public lands on the expenditures made and
 acreage acquired and leased on a county-by-county basis.

40 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §6207, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 466, §2, is further amended to read:

42 **3. Priorities.** Whenever possible, the Land for Maine's
44 Future Fund and the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund must be
46 used for land acquisition projects when matching funds are
48 available from cooperating entities, provided that the proposed
 acquisition meets all other criteria set forth in this chapter.
 For acquisitions funded by the Land for Maine's Future Fund, the
 board shall give priority to projects that conserve lands with
 multiple outstanding resource or recreation values or a single

2 exceptional value, provide geographic representation and build
upon or connect existing holdings.

4 When acquiring land or interest in land, the board shall examine
6 public vehicular access rights to the land and, whenever possible
and appropriate, acquire guaranteed public vehicular access as
part of the acquisition.

8
10 The majority of expenditures from the Land for Maine's Future
Fund and the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund during over a
12 2-year period described in section 6206, subsection 1, paragraph
E must be used for land acquisition in the 8 counties that are
14 below the state median in percentage of public land.

16 SUMMARY

18 This bill requires the Land for Maine's Future Board to
20 report annually to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over matters pertaining to state
22 parks and public lands on the expenditures made and acreage
acquired and leased on a county-by-county basis. The bill also
24 requires that the majority of expenditures from the Land for
Maine's Future Fund and the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund
during a 2-year period must be used for land acquisition in the 8
26 counties that are below the state median in percentage of public
land.