

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1219

H.P. 837

House of Representatives, March 10, 2005

### An Act To Improve the Business Climate in Maine

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SAVIELLO of Wilton.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin and  
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, CLARK of Millinocket, DUGAY of Cherryfield, FINCH  
of Fairfield, FISCHER of Presque Isle, FISHER of Brewer, JACKSON of Fort Kent, MOODY  
of Manchester.

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

**Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §341-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §13 and affected by §40, is amended to read:

1. **Purpose.** The department shall prevent, abate and control the pollution of the air, water and land and preserve, improve and prevent diminution of the natural environment of the State while maintaining the State's economic viability. The department shall protect and enhance the public's right to use and enjoy the State's natural resources and may educate the public on natural resource use, requirements and issues.

**Sec. 2. Department of Environmental Protection; economist.** The Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to employ, within its existing budgeted resources, an economist. The hiring of the economist is contingent upon a position within the department becoming vacant through attrition. The department is authorized to submit any legislation necessary to implement this section.

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**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the mission of the Department of Environmental Protection to include consideration of maintenance of the State's economic viability. The bill also authorizes the department, when a position becomes vacant through attrition, to hire an economist within its existing resources.