MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 15, 2005

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1258

S.P. 438

In Senate, March 15, 2005

An Act To Provide for Department of Labor Services and Other Services in Unorganized Territories

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative JACKSON of Fort Kent and Representative: SMITH of Van Buren.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §685-F is enacted to read:

§685-F. Funding for services provided to the unorganized territory

Beginning with the 2005-06 fiscal year, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall assess every landowner in the unorganized territory a fee equal to .01% of the most recent equalized state valuation established by the State Tax Assessor for that landowner's real property. The State Tax Assessor shall issue a bill to each such landowner no later than March 1st of each year. The bill is payable on demand. Interest charges on unpaid fees begin on June 30th of each year and are compounded monthly at the interest rate for unpaid property tax as established by the State Tax Assessor for the unorganized territory. These fees must be deposited into the General Fund and used to offset the costs of providing services in the unorganized territory, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, fire protection, game warden services and services provided by Department of Labor personnel.

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26 SUMMARY

This bill assesses landowners in the unorganized territory a fee equal to .01% of equalized state valuation for the landowners' property. The revenue from the fee is used to offset the cost of providing services, such as police and fire protection, game warden services and services provided by Department of Labor personnel, to the unorganized territory.