

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1034

H.P. 752

House of Representatives, March 6, 2007

**Resolve, To Preserve the Saco River**

(EMERGENCY)

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MUSE of Fryeburg.  
Cosponsored by Senator HASTINGS of Oxford and Representative: CRESSEY of Cornish.

1       **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3       **Whereas,** the Saco River flows through several municipalities and recreational use  
4 of the river has increased dramatically in the past decade; and

5       **Whereas,** a consistent approach to managing recreational use of the river is essential  
6 to maintaining the quality of the experience for users, as well as resolving conflicts  
7 between recreational users and owners of property adjacent to the river; and

8       **Whereas,** implementing a plan for appropriately managing recreational use of the  
9 river and providing law enforcement, sanitation and emergency services is essential; and

10       **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14       **Sec. 1. Development of recreation management plan for Saco River.**

15       **Resolved:** That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of  
16 Conservation, referred to in this resolve as “the director,” shall, with assistance from the  
17 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, develop a plan to manage that portion of  
18 the Saco River between the New Hampshire border at Balch Pond and the Hiram Dam in  
19 the Town of Hiram as a recreational waterway of statewide significance. For the  
20 purposes of this resolve, this portion of the river is referred to as "the Upper Saco River  
21 Recreation Corridor" and includes the river and lands adjacent to the river as specified in  
22 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 953.

23       The director shall gather information on various approaches to address issues  
24 including, but not limited to, boating safety, law enforcement, environmental impact of  
25 recreational uses, conflicts among recreational users and the degradation of public and  
26 private property within the corridor. The director shall seek an approach that provides for  
27 consistent management throughout the Upper Saco River Recreation Corridor. The  
28 director shall consider potential effects of various approaches on local and regional  
29 economies.

30       The director shall contact the New Hampshire Department of Resources and  
31 Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation. The director shall invite one  
32 or more representatives from New Hampshire to join in examining the management of  
33 the Upper Delaware River as a federally designated Scenic and Recreational River and  
34 assess the benefits and drawbacks to such a designation; and be it further

35       **Sec. 2. Working group. Resolved:** That the director shall convene a working  
36 group, including, but not limited to, representatives of the following:

37       1. The Saco River Corridor Commission;

38       2. The Saco River Recreational Council;

