

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

---

Legislative Document

No. 1089

H.P. 807

House of Representatives, March 6, 2007

**An Act To Create the Maine Natural Resource and Environment  
Efficiency Commission**

---

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MacDONALD of Boothbay. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**  
3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to create the Maine Natural Resource and Environment Efficiency  
6 Commission, referred to in this concept draft as "the commission," to methodically  
7 review the structure and operations of all state natural resources and environmental  
8 agencies and propose specific reforms to eliminate duplication and inefficiency. The  
9 specific elements of the commission are as follows.

10 1. The commission consists of 12 bipartisan members appointed jointly by the  
11 Governor and the leaders of the parties of each House of the Legislature with the largest  
12 number of members in each House and the second-largest number of members in each  
13 House. The members must be from the general public, be respected and known for their  
14 independent-mindedness and have expertise in natural resources, environmental policy,  
15 planning, administration, economics and engineering.

16 2. The goal of the commission is to ensure coordinated and unified natural resources  
17 conservation and environmental protection policies to support sustainable prosperity and  
18 quality locations in the State.

19 3. The commission is empowered to:

20 A. Hire top-quality expert staff to conduct and subcontract sophisticated program  
21 analysis, manage information flows and prepare reports;

22 B. Investigate and identify sources of administrative inefficiencies, program overlap  
23 and inefficiencies in the delivery of services;

24 C. Develop a coherent set of reforms to streamline, reconfigure and improve the  
25 performance of state natural resource and environmental agencies and programs to  
26 yield about \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000 a year in budget savings; and

27 D. Develop criteria for evaluating state natural resources and environmental agencies  
28 with the assistance of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government  
29 Accountability, including criteria for administrative efficiency, program quality and  
30 effectiveness, potential overlap within and between state natural resource and  
31 environmental agencies and other state or local agencies or programs and overall  
32 cost-benefit concerns.

33 4. The commission would receive an appropriation of \$425,000 with which to hire  
34 staff and carry out its purposes.

35 5. Savings from the implementation of commission recommendations must be  
36 apportioned, with 75% going to reduce property taxes and 25% going to the acquisition  
37 of lands for the protection and preservation of biological diversity and rare, unique or  
38 endangered species.