

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1359

S.P. 473

March 13, 2007

An Act To Ensure the Availability of Existing Drinking Water Sources of Supply

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WESTON of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative PINGREE of North Haven and Senators: ROSEN of Hancock, SMITH of Piscataquis, SULLIVAN of York, Representative: ROSEN of Bucksport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §470-H**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 330, §12, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§470-H. Water use standards; rules**

5 The board shall adopt rules that establish water use standards for maintaining in-
6 stream flows and GPA lake or pond water levels that are protective of aquatic life and
7 other uses and that establish criteria for designating watersheds most at risk from
8 cumulative water use. Standards adopted under this section must be based on the natural
9 variation of flows and water levels, allowing variances if use will still be protective of
10 water quality within that classification. The board shall incorporate into its standards a
11 mechanism to reconcile, to the extent feasible, the objective of protecting aquatic life and
12 other uses as provided for in this section and the objective of allowing community public
13 water systems to use their existing water supplies to provide water service. Rules
14 adopted under this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
15 subchapter 2-A.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill directs the Board of Environmental Protection to incorporate into its water
18 use standards a mechanism to reconcile the objectives of protecting aquatic life and of
19 allowing existing water supplies to provide water service.