

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1668

H.P. 1177

House of Representatives, March 22, 2007

### An Act To Create a Saco River Preservation Fund

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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.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §9322, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 556, §14, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Saco River Corridor.** For the purpose of issuing permits under this section, the  
5 lands within Oxford County within the Saco River Corridor, so designated by Private and  
6 Special Law 1973, chapter 150, as amended, ~~shall be~~ are subject to the same requirements  
7 and procedures as lands within the unorganized territory, except that a permit fee and  
8 disposition of fees charged must be in accordance with section 9327.

9 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §9327** is enacted to read:

10 **§9327. Permits for campfires within the Saco River Corridor; fund established**

11 This section applies to permits issued by the Director of the Bureau of Forestry,  
12 referred to in this section as "the director," or an agent authorized by the director for  
13 campfires within the Saco River Corridor as established in Title 38, section 953 and  
14 referred to in this section as "the corridor."

15 **1. Permit fee.** A person applying for a campfire permit within the corridor must pay  
16 a fee of \$10 for each permit issued. The director may authorize agents to issue permits  
17 and collect the fee required under this section. An authorized agent shall submit all fees  
18 collected to the director on a monthly basis and in a manner prescribed by the director.  
19 The director shall deposit all fees collected under this subsection in the Saco River  
20 Preservation Fund established under subsection 2.

21 **2. Saco River Preservation Fund.** The director shall create a dedicated nonlapsing  
22 fund known as the Saco River Preservation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund."  
23 The fund is established for the purpose of reimbursing municipalities for costs incurred in  
24 providing law enforcement, sanitation and emergency services to recreational users of the  
25 corridor.

26 **3. Disbursal from fund.** The director shall adopt rules establishing a process for the  
27 equitable disbursal of funds annually to municipalities seeking reimbursement for  
28 expenditures directly associated with the provision of law enforcement, sanitation and  
29 emergency services within the corridor. The costs of equipment procured specifically for  
30 providing these services to recreational users of the corridor are also eligible for  
31 reimbursement from the fund.

32 The Saco River Corridor Commission established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection  
33 13 may seek and is entitled to reimbursement from the fund in the same manner as a  
34 municipality. The fund may not be used to reimburse the commission for any other  
35 expenditure or administrative or operating cost. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
36 subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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## SUMMARY

2        This bill establishes a fee for a permit issued to allow a fire within the Saco River  
3 Corridor. It establishes the Saco River Preservation Fund and requires the Director of the  
4 Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation to adopt rules to establish a  
5 process for reimbursing municipalities from the fund. Costs incurred in providing law  
6 enforcement, sanitation and emergency services within the Saco River Corridor are  
7 eligible for reimbursement from the fund along with costs to purchase equipment  
8 specifically to provide those services.