

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1151

H.P. 789

House of Representatives, March 31, 2015

An Act To Prevent the Infestation of Firewood by Invasive Species

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, HICKMAN of Winthrop, MAREAN of Hollis, MARTIN
of Eagle Lake, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SHORT of Pittsfield, STANLEY of Medway,
Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 417** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 417**

4 **FIREWOOD**

5 **§2441. Firewood emergency response group**

6 The commissioner shall establish a firewood emergency response group to respond to
7 reports of infestation of firewood by invasive species. Membership in the firewood
8 emergency response group may include forest rangers, public and private foresters,
9 entomologists, landowners, municipal officials and law enforcement officials as the
10 commissioner determines appropriate. At least once a year the firewood emergency
11 response group shall conduct a training exercise to prepare for an infestation incident
12 involving firewood.

13 **§2442. Firewood Infestation Education Fund**

14 The Firewood Infestation Education Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is
15 established. The fund is a nonlapsing fund administered by the department for the
16 purposes of educating the public and promoting public awareness of the dangers of
17 infestation of invasive species through the importation of firewood into the State, which
18 may include Internet marketing, mapping resources and tools for landowners. Money in
19 the fund consists of appropriations or allocations for the purpose of the fund and any
20 other money, including federal money and other public and private contributions,
21 deposited into the fund. Income from investment of the fund must be deposited to the
22 credit of the fund.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to
25 create a firewood emergency response group to respond to reports of infestation of
26 firewood by invasive species and creates the Firewood Infestation Education Fund to
27 educate the public regarding and promote public awareness of the dangers of infestation
28 through the importation of firewood into the State.