



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document	No. 413

H.P. 322

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

An Act To Ensure the Rights of Citizens to Groundwater in the State

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative RISEMAN of Harrison.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, EVANGELOS of Friendship, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HICKMAN of Winthrop, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, PLUECKER of Warren, SYLVESTER of Portland.

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 change the laws governing groundwater to recognize that the
6	citizens of the State collectively own the State's groundwater. The bill establishes the
7	State as the trustee and steward of the State's groundwater on behalf of the citizens of the
8	State and requires the State to endeavor to ensure that the groundwater will always be
9	available to the benefit of all the citizens of the State. It also directs the State to take all
10	reasonable measures to ensure an adequate supply of usable groundwater for the citizens
11	of the State and to monitor the level of sustainability of the groundwater and protect
12	against uses of groundwater that are detrimental to aquifers, bodies of surface water or
13	wetlands or to public health and welfare.