

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1583

S.P. 497

In Senate, April 27, 2021

**An Act To Enhance Private Property Protections Using Modern
Technology**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1983**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. SS, §16, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§1983. Intergovernmental cooperation and assistance**

5 The commissioner may enter into agreements with the Federal Government, the
6 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and other agencies
7 and organizations and, as requested by the Legislature, create or conduct pilot programs
8 that will promote the objectives of this chapter and accept funds from the Federal
9 Government, municipal and county agencies or any individual or corporation to be
10 expended for purposes consistent with this chapter.

11 **Sec. 2. Office of Information Technology to conduct pilot program.** The
12 Office of Information Technology, Office of Geographic Information Systems shall create
13 and conduct a pilot program in Oxford County that uses geographic information system
14 technology to assist landowners in identifying their property for a specified public use. The
15 Office of Geographic Information Systems may engage with one or more public or private
16 entities to develop software to carry out the purposes of this section. By January 1, 2023,
17 the Office of Information Technology shall submit a report regarding the progress and
18 results of the pilot program, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee
19 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic
20 advancement and business matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature have
21 jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters. The joint standing committee
22 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic
23 advancement and business matters or the joint standing committee of the Legislature
24 having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters may report out
25 legislation to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based upon the report.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill, to enhance the continued tradition of public use of private property in the
28 State, directs the Office of Information Technology, Office of Geographic Information
29 Systems to create and conduct a pilot program in Oxford County that uses geographic
30 information system technology to assist landowners in identifying their property for a
31 specified public use and allows the engagement of public and private entities to develop
32 software to carry out the program's purpose.