

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 993

H.P. 628

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine

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 O'NEIL of Saco.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, CRAFTS of Newcastle, OSHER of Orono, Senators:
BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§24-H** is enacted to read:

3 **24-H.**

4 Environment: Maine Forest Advisory Board Not Authorized 12 MRSA
5 Natural Resources §8007

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8007** is enacted to read:

8 **§8007. Maine Forest Advisory Board established**

9 The Maine Forest Advisory Board, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I,
10 subsection 24-H and referred to in this section as "the board," advises the bureau and
11 provides input in the development, updating and implementation of the state forest action
12 plan required under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law
13 110-234 and Public Law 110-246.

14 **1. Membership.** The board consists of 21 members appointed as follows:

15 A. Four members who serve in an advisory, nonvoting capacity, appointed by the
16 Governor as follows:

17 (1) A representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;

18 (2) A representative of the Department of Marine Resources;

19 (3) A representative of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
20 Bureau of Parks and Lands; and

21 (4) A representative of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
22 Natural Areas Program;

23 B. Nine members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

24 (1) A representative of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension;

25 (2) A representative of a statewide organization representing the forest products
26 industry;

27 (3) A representative of an organization of professional logging contractors;

28 (4) A representative of a commercial landowner that owns a large amount of
29 forested land in the State;

30 (5) A representative of a nonprofit corporation that owns a large amount of
31 forested land in the State;

32 (6) A representative of a cooperative representing loggers in the State;

33 (7) A representative of a fisheries conservation organization with a statewide
34 presence;

35 (8) A representative of a statewide organization representing small woodland
36 owners in the State; and

1 (9) A representative of a statewide organization representing outdoor
2 recreationists, including, without limitation, hunters and fishing enthusiasts, in the
3 State; and

4 C. Eight members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

5 (1) A representative who is a member of the joint standing committee of the
6 Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters,
7 who serves in an advisory, nonvoting capacity;

8 (2) A representative of a land trust with a statewide presence;

9 (3) A representative of a statewide organization dedicated to wildlife issues;

10 (4) A wildlife biologist with expertise in forest habitat;

11 (5) An academic with expertise in forest ecology;

12 (6) A representative of a soil and water conservation district;

13 (7) A representative of a statewide labor organization; and

14 (8) A representative who is a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe
15 or band in this State. The appointment of the member of a federally recognized
16 Indian nation, tribe or band in this State must be based on the joint recommendation
17 of the tribal governments of the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet
18 Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at
19 Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation. If the tribal governments do not make a
20 recommendation or a unanimous joint recommendation, the Speaker of the House
21 shall appoint a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in
22 this State and rotate the appointment among members of each federally recognized
23 Indian nation, tribe or band in this State.

24 **2. Terms; quorum; meetings.** Except for the member appointed under subsection 1,
25 paragraph C, subparagraph (1), members serve for a term of 3 years. At the end of a term
26 an outgoing member serves until a successor has been appointed. A member may serve
27 multiple terms. The board shall meet at least 4 times a year to conduct business and to elect
28 officers. A quorum consists of at least 11 members. The affirmative vote of a majority of
29 the members present is necessary to decide any business brought before the board.

30 **3. Duties of board.** The board shall:

31 A. Advise the bureau on conditions and trends in the forests of the State;

32 B. Facilitate dialogue among diverse interests involving forestry matters;

33 C. Promote cooperation among state agencies involving forestry matters;

34 D. Advise the bureau on forestry policy development and implementation;

35 E. Ensure public participation in the development of forestry policy;

36 F. Provide input in the development, updating and implementation of the state forest
37 action plan required under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008,
38 Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246; and

39 G. Submit annual reports to the Legislature on its work under this section.

