

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 154

House of Representatives, Feb. 5, 1913.

*Tabled pending reference to a committee, by Mr. Swett of
Bath, and ordered printed.*

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN.

AN ACT, State Ownership, Natural Resources, Land, Min-
erals, Water Power.

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

Section 1. The fee to all undeveloped water power and
2 water power sites which now are or hereafter may be
3 owned or held by the State shall be conserved and forever
4 remain the property of the State of Maine.

Sect. 2. The fee to all lands bordering on any meander-
2 ing or non-meandering stream, river, pond or lake, naviga-
3 ble in fact for any purposes whatsoever, which now are or

4 may hereafter be owned or held by the State, to the extent
5 of one chain on every side thereof, together with such ad-
6 ditional area as the legislature may provide for any public
7 use or purpose, including water power reservoir and flow-
8 age use and purposes, shall remain forever in the State,
9 and any leases of said land shall reserve to the people the
10 right of access to such lands and all rights necessary to
11 the full enjoyment of such waters.

Sect. 3. In all grants or conveyances of land hereafter
2 made by the State, to individuals or corporations, the State
3 shall expressly reserve all mineral rights, water power
4 rights, rights of flowage, and reservoir rights and such
5 rights in all lands now or hereafter owned or held by the
6 State shall never be alienated.

Sect. 4. The right to cut and remove timber, or the right
2 to mine and remove minerals from any land now owned or
3 hereafter owned or held by the State shall never be granted
4 to private persons or corporations except by affirmative
5 vote of two-thirds of all members elect of both houses of
6 the legislature assembled.

Sect. 5. The State shall, through the creation of a com-
2 mission or other properly constituted body, as the exigency,
3 necessity or desire may arise, may survey, estimate and
4 construct dams and power plants, produce and distribute
5 heat, light and power to the citizens of the State at the cost
6 of production and maintenance. It is also provided that
7 cities and towns may take over at will any or all developed

8 or partially developed water power plants now under pri-
9 vate or corporate ownership or control at their physical
10 value or cost of duplication. The cost of purchase to be
11 covered by the issuance of bonds to run not more than
12 twenty years, and said cities and towns may produce and
13 distribute heat, light and power to individuals and munici-
14 palities at cost of production, and the provision of a sink-
15 ing fund sufficient to retire said bonds when they become
16 due.

Sect. 6. All acts and parts of acts conflicting with any
2 provisions of this act are repealed insofar as they are in-
3 consistent therewith.

Sect. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from
2 and after its passage and publication.