

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 275

H. P. 931

House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1927.

Referred to Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lait of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to the Establishment of Town Forests.

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

Section 1. Cities and towns may acquire by purchase,
2 gift or bequest lands for the purpose of forestation, and
3 may reclaim and plant such lands. The forest commis-
4 sioner shall, upon application in such form as he may pre-
5 scribe, furnish said cities and towns, at cost, with seedlings
6 or transplants for the planting of town forest lands, and
7 shall be ready to offer advice as to the planting, manage-
8 ment, and protection of said forest lands.

Sect. 2. A town, by a two-thirds vote at any annual town
2 meeting, or a city, by a two-thirds vote of the city govern-
3 ment, may determine to purchase lands which shall be

4 known as the town or city forest, and may appropriate
5 money and accept gifts of money and land therefor. Such
6 forest shall be devoted to the culture of forest trees, or to
7 the preservation of the water supply of such city or town.

Sect. 3. In each city or town which has a town forest as
2 defined hereinbefore, the town or city manager in such
3 towns or cities as are under the manager system, or else-
4 where the mayor or selectmen, may appoint a forester
5 whose duty it shall be to make and enforce all necessary
6 regulations, and to perform such labor therein as may be
7 necessary for the proper care and maintenance of such land
8 as a forest producing area. Said forester need not be a
9 resident of the town or city in which he is appointed, but
10 he and such deputies as he may appoint shall have the pow-
11 ers of constables and police officers while in said forest.

Sect. 4. Any city or town owning such forest area may
2 lease any building thereon, and may erect thereon any build-
3 ing for public instruction and recreation.

Sect. 5. No expenditures shall be made or bills incurred
2 above the amounts appropriated for said specific items, and
3 all expenditures must have the approval of city or town
4 officers appointing said forester. All receipts from said
5 forest or buildings thereon shall go into the general revenue
6 of town or city owning said forest.

Sect. 6. When in the judgment of the forester, and with
2 the approval of the city council, or by vote of town meet-
3 ing, land acquired under this act may be sold or exchanged

4 and in like manner rights of way for public highways grant-
5 ed, if it shall be deemed of advantage to the town. Pro-
6 vided, that the power of sale or exchange herein granted
7 shall not apply to lands given for memorial purposes.